Hafa Adai!

Summer Auto Fest in hiatus after 2019. PAGE 2
Senate set to act on 2019 budget. PAGE 3

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75¢

From prohibition to control

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

» HB 20-178 to allow NMI to transition

An advocate for the legalization of marijuana use in the CNMI said that House Bill 20-178 would transition the CNMI from prohibition to the control of cannabis use in the Commonwealth, once Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the legislation into law.

The Senate, voting 6-2, passed H.B. 20-178 in their session last Thursday, Aug. 31, three weeks after it cleared the House of Representatives. The bill is now at the governor's desk and his legal counsel is expected to review it before Torres enacts it.

Lawrence Duponcheel, co-founder of pro-cannabis group Sensible CNMI, told *Saipan Tribune* that local lawmakers "thoughtfully and me-

See FROM on Page 4

IN SUMMARY

H.B. 20-178, or Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, now goes to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. In summary, the bill:

- allows adults 21 and older and patients with certain medical conditions to possess limited amounts of marijuana (one ounce), marijuana-infused products (16 ounces in solid form, 72 ounces in liquid form), and marijuana extracts (five grams);
- creates a Homegrown Marijuana Registry, through which adults and patients can register to grow a limited number of marijuana plants (six mature and 12 immature or up to twice that amount in the case of medical need) for personal use;
- directs the legislature to enact taxes and fees on all marijuana sold by a producer, as well as an excise tax on retail sales of marijuana for adult use (medical marijuana is exempt);
- provides for six types of regulated marijuana businesses: producers, testing facilities, processors, retailers, wholesalers, and lounges; and
- establishes a five-member appointed CNMI Cannabis Commission, which will serve as the regulatory agency overseeing commercial marijuana and hemp.

Source: Marijuana Policy Project

BEST OF SHOW
Sean Ficke poses next to his CNMI Blue 1991 Mazda RX-7 after receiving the Best of Show award at the 2018 Island Summer Auto Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot last Saturday night.
ERWIN ENCINARES

See story and more photos on Page 8

MARIANAS RESORT & SPA CLOSURE

MVA: Thousands of tourists lost

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Expressing grave concern over the announcement that Mariana Resort & Spa and the Mariana Country Club will be closing business at the end of this month, the Marianas Visitors Authority said yesterday that the shutdown potentially translates into thousands of tourists lost because of the lack of rooms.

When asked for comments about Kan Pacific's decision, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said the closure means nearly 120 hotel rooms will be out of their inventory.

The MVA's budget will also be

See MVA on Page 4

FOR THE FIRST TIME

'100 pct. of Saipan now has 24-hour water'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

For the first time, 100 percent of Saipan residents are now experiencing a 24-hour water supply from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to a CUC official.

In his presentation to the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Wednesday afternoon, CUC water/wastewater division manager Gary Byra cited a graph showing that, for the month of July 2018, 96 percent of the island's residents had 24-hour water supply, which then improved to 100 percent in August.

See WATER on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
Sen. John McCain's final journey ended on a grassy hill at the U.S. Naval Academy

PAGE 14

ASIA
As MeToo unnerves China, a student fights to tell her story.

PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Six people were honored Friday as this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

PAGE 19

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Local

IN FATAL HIT-AND-RUN CASE,

OPD: Police's ID procedures overly suggestive

The Office of the Public Defender wants the Superior Court to suppress a witness' testimony related to a photo identification of the driver of a vehicle who was allegedly involved in a hit-and-run case that killed a pedestrian near Saipan Ice and Water Co. in As Mahetog last April 1.

Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues, counsel for David Desebel Kapileo, asserted that the photo identification procedures were overly suggestive, undermining the reliability of the eyewitness identification.

Kapileo is charged with homicide by vehicle, driving while under the influence of alcohol, failing to stop after an accident causing injury or death, and reckless driving.

The Office of the Attorney General alleged that Kapileo was driving a car around 6:53pm on April 1, 2018, when he hit a pedestrian, causing injuries that killed the victim.

In Kapileo's motion to suppress, Nogues pointed out that Police Sgt. Norris Kwon's affidavit and his preliminary hearing testimony indicate that Kapileo waived his constitutional right to an attorney at 9:30am before the April 2, 2018, interview.

However, Nogues said, the discovery provided in this case reveals the opposite: Kapileo invoked his right to counsel at 9:39am, declaring that he did not want to talk to Kwon without a lawyer present.

The lawyer said that, 9:46am, after Kapileo invoked his right to an attorney and while he was still in custody, Kwon took photographs of Kapileo.

Nogues said that, on the evening of Tuesday, April 3, Kwon interviewed three potential witnesses. Neither two of three witnesses were able to see the face of the driver of the green Mitsubishi Montero, Nogues said.

He said the third witness told Kwon that he was able to see the driver of the Montero as it passed his mother's car shortly before the pedestrian was hit.

Nogues said the third witness did not provide any physical description of the Montero's driver except to refer to the driver using male pronouns. When asked if he was able to see the driver's face, the witness only said "only the side view," Nogues said.

When Kwon asked the witness if he would be able to identify the driver of the Montero if shown pictures, the witness replied yes.

Nogues said Kwon then showed the witness the custodial photos of Kapileo taken on April 2.

The witness positively identified Kapileo as the operator of the Montero.

Nogues said that, six weeks later, on May 14, Kwon showed the witness a "photographic lineup." The lineup consisted of 12 front-facing photos of male individuals.

Nogues said the witness correctly recognized Kapileo as individual No. 5 in the lineup.

The defense counsel said that, notably and troubling, Kwon neglected to mention in his preliminary hearing testimony that he had shown the witness a single, front-facing photo of the only suspect in the case on April 3.

Nogues said Kwon misleadingly testifies as if the May 14 photo lineup was the first time that he had showed the witness a front-facing photo of Kapileo.

Nogues said the pretrial photo identification procedures were overly suggestive and any resulting or subsequent identification of Kapileo by the witness are unreliable and tainted and should be suppressed.

Police arrested the 50-year-old Kapileo last May 28. He is currently detained at the Department of Corrections for failing to post a $100,000 cash bond.

The victim, a 38-year-old Chinese male, was hit by the Montero at the intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold Road and As Mahetog near the Saipan Ice and Water Co. last April 1.

The victim sustained severe injuries and was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center that same day at 9:45pm.

Police said that, according to a witness, after the Montero struck the victim, the driver kept driving south, then reportedly made a left turn on Mihaville in Garapan.

Police located the SUV seven hours later. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

RELATED NEWS Ficke wins Best of Show award at auto fest. PAGE 8

Summer Auto Fest in hiatus after 2019

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Despite the successes of four previous auto fests, car enthusiast and organizer James Fleming said Saturday evening that the car festival would go on an indefinite hiatus after 2019.

Fleming told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview Saturday evening during the Summer Auto Fest 2018 at the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza that the 2019 auto fest would not be followed by one in 2020.

Fleming noted the drop in the numbers of car enthusiast registrants for the car show, saying that the first show in 2015 garnered the most number of registrants at about 80 cars for both competition and display.

Both the 2016 and 2017 editions yielded about 50 participants, while the recently concluded 2018 auto fest yielded the least number of registrants at 38.

"Next year would be our finale, and we would be taking a break after that," Fleming said "The numbers just aren't there."

Displaying car customizations and creations are the life and soul of the car show, he said.

"If the car enthusiasts aren't [showing up], we don't want to continue [the car show] and then later figure out that the numbers are dropping," he said. "If we look at the numbers…and we see there are not many car enthusiasts, it is better to just take a break next year and probably decide [from there]."

The only thing that could get the auto fest out of hiatus would be if there is an increased interest to participate among car enthusiast community in the CNMI. Even with this, Fleming said, the 2019 Summer Auto Fest would be the final car show for the meantime.

Even though the 2019 Summer Auto Fest might be the last in the near-term, Fleming said he is looking to do an all-star sort of competition, where awardees of previous auto fests go head-to-head with one another to declare an overall winner.

"Through this, we at least show that we are appreciative of everybody competing," he said.

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CEC allocates $40K to pay ballot company

The Commonwealth Election Commission is paying a Nebraska company $40,000 in total for the printing of ballots as well as to service its five tabulating machines in the CNMI, according to CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol.

Igitol said the payment for Election Systems and Software includes ballot coding, layout of ballots, printing of ballots, and shipping of ballots.

She said ESS will also send a person to the CNMI to provide support and will stay during the tabulation of the ballots for the Nov. 6 election.

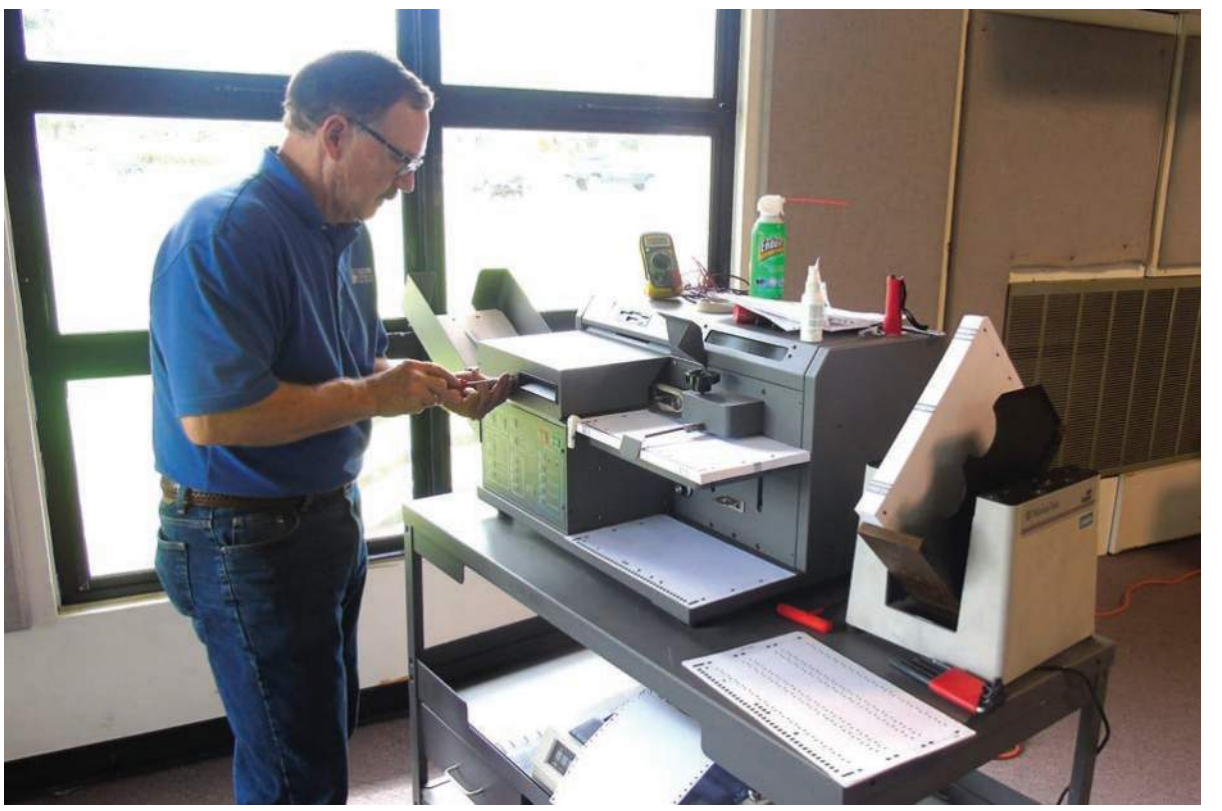
As of last week, there were over 18,200 registered voters in the CNMI. CEC has estimated the need to print 22,000 ballots.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez earlier stated that, days before the election, ESS will be sending a technician to service the counting machines.

Villagomez said the technician will normally just clean the machines and change the rubber parts.

CEC reportedly has not encountered problems with the five tabulating machines since they were purchased in 2003.

Villagomez said the machines that were purchased from ESS are very accurate and fast in tabulating ballots. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



In this August 2016 file photo, Election Systems and Software senior field service technician William McCullough services one of five Commonwealth Election Commission counting machines at the Pedro Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Senate set to act on 2019 budget

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Senate is expected to act on the CNMI's fiscal year 2019 budget when it returns to session on Thursday, Sept. 6.

The budget bill, House Bill 20-173, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), passed the House last month and has been with the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee headed by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) for almost two months now.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) has asked Hofschneider's committee to speed up its review of the bill so they would have enough time to discuss it on Thursday, 24 days before fiscal year 2018 ends.

"I hope that the Fiscal Affairs Committee would finalize all the necessary provisions or revisions of the 2019 budget so we can pass it in our next session. Hopefully in the afternoon [before 1pm session starts], so we can deliberate and hopefully pass it," said Palacios in last week's session.

Hofschneider said they would present some of the highlights of what their committee had worked on, as they had to review the bill carefully before the final product that they would introduce in the Thursday session.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted to the Legislature last April a proposed a budget of $258.14 million, which is higher by 14.99 percent from the previous fiscal year budget of $236.77 million.

The fiscal year 2019 budget proposal allocates $42.7 million for the CNMI Public School System—which is higher than the 25 percent constitutionally mandated funding for PSS—while $5.5 million is allotted to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and includes funding for indigent and prisoners care.

Removing the funding for the salary increases of Cabinet members was the significant change to H.B. 20-173.

The $1.9 million salary increases for legislators is another controversial provision of the budget bill; last week the CNMI Supreme Court ruled it is unconstitutional. The high court ruling would mean the money would go to CHCC.

The fiscal year 2019 budget needs to be enacted before Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2019; otherwise, a partial government shutdown would take place.

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September is Cultural Heritage Month

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog proclaimed September as 2018 Cultural Heritage Month yesterday at the Carolinian Utt to celebrate the cultures and traditions of the CNMI's two indigenous peoples—the Chamorros and Carolinians.

Hocog urged the community to start teaching the younger generations about the indigenous cultures as early as possible, even at home.

"…We encourage [people] to share the teachings of our ancestors. It is important for them to understand first from the home…so that it will help [our children] understand and speak our language better," he said.

"It is good to integrate because the Carolinians have their own way of doing traditions from [the Chamorro]. By merging them together, there would be…an understanding of the fact that we are all living on one island," he said, adding that both the Chamorro and Carolinian residents should "come together."

Cultural Heritage Month is underscored by several events throughout the month. On most of the weekdays, the Carolinian Affairs Office, represented by Paul Ythemar, would be doing cultural outreach at the Public School System.

Chief Aghurubw Day would be celebrated on Sept. 29, 2018.

The finale for the Cultural Heritage Month would be on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018, with sunset music featuring three artists and three musicians. The final venue for the two events have yet to be finalized, according to CAO special assistant John Tagabuel.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signs the Cultural Heritage Month proclamation yesterday as Indigenous Affairs Office executive director Roman Tudela Jr. and Carolinian Office special assistant John Tagaburl look on.

ERWIN ENCINARES

FROM

From Page 1

thodically worked" to piece together legislation that would legalize and regulate marijuana use in the Commonwealth.

H.B. 20-178 is formally known as the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018.

"[H.B. 20-178] would allow the CNMI to transition from an ineffective and destructive policy of prohibition, to a system of controlling, regulating, and taxing marijuana (cannabis) and industrial hemp," said Duponcheel, who added that the bill is modeled after Oregon's Measure 91.

Oregon's marijuana law recognizes the best management practices in controlling, regulating, and taxing marijuana and industrial hemp. Measure 91, the third initiative to legalize recreational use of cannabis in Oregon, was a ballot measure in the 2014 election with 56.11 percent voting yes and 43.89 percent opposing it.

H.B. 20-178 was crafted to adapt to local needs and conditions, with medical professionals, law enforcers, patients, growers, Sensible CNMI, and other individuals lending their input and expertise in the public hearings and committee meetings that were held before the bill was discussed in the Legislature.

U.S. pro-marijuana organizations like the Americans for Safe Access, Law Enforcement Action Partnership, Marijuana Policy Project, and Americans for Safe Access endorsed H.B. 20-178. These groups are working to reform the nation's marijuana laws.

H.B. 20-178 would allow safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic and medical purposes, while prohibiting and discouraging possession and sale to minors. It is projected to generate a new revenue stream that will provide funding for drug treatment and prevention programs, school programs, the NMI Retirement Fund, and the general fund.

"Regulating and taxing marijuana will complement and enhance our local tourism industry, create jobs, and provide adults with a safer alternative to more dangerous substances, such as alcohol, prescription drugs, and other illicit drugs," said Duponcheel.

"Finally, we can move away from the criminalization and stigmatization of our citizens, saving taxpayer dollars, and allowing law enforcement to focus on more serious crimes, thus reducing the negative impacts of enforcing misguided federal policies here in the CNMI." He added that the people of Pacific island communities are strong-minded and caring. "Our citizens and leadership are correct to have come together to develop and support H.B. 20-178, as a strong and progressive piece of legislation that is based on our core principles of respect, responsibility, and trust."

In a statement last Thursday, soon after the CNMI Senate sent the bill to Torres, Gerry Hemley, co-founder of Sensible CNMI, said in a statement: "We commend the lawmakers for taking this important step forward, and we hope Gov. Torres will join them in supporting a more sensible marijuana policy for the Northern Marianas. This is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to establish itself as a trendsetter on this issue and set an example for the states and other U.S. territories. This legislation will replace the illegal marijuana market with a system of regulated, taxpaying businesses. It will not only bolster our economy, but also improve public health and make our community safer."

Karen O'Keefe, director of state policies for the Marijuana Policy Project, also issued a statement: "This is a historic moment, as it is the first time a governing body in the U.S. has ever enacted legislation to both end marijuana prohibition and establish a system of regulation to replace it. Adults and medical cannabis patients will finally be able to access marijuana safely and legally, and products will be regulated and controlled to ensure they are safe for consumers. This legislation will allow for the establishment of new businesses that create jobs and generate new tax revenue that can support important programs and services."

Last Thursday, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), along with Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), original author Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), and all three Tinian GOP lawmakers—Sens. Francisco M. Borja, Francisco Q. Cruz, and Jude U. Hofschneider—voted to pass the bill.

Sens. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) and Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) abstained while Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent.

WATER

From Page 1

The same graph showed that, in 2006, only 26 percent of the population had 24-hour water supply; that grew to 54 percent of the island's population in 2007.

At the conclusion of Thursday's status conference, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter praised the staff and officials at CUC for having 24/7 water supply for the first time on the island.

Carter also thanked CUC, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Gilbane Federal/ Engineering and Environmental Management Co. for all the information provided to the court during the status conference.

Carter

According to the minutes of the conference, CUC executive director Gary Camacho stated that the Office of the Governor had applied for a $2-million grant with the U.S. Department of Interior to fund a project to activate nine inactive wells in Kannat Tabla.

O'Carter said a transcript of the discussion will be given to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as this project is one of the highest priorities.

CUC project manager Larry Manacop provided information regarding the water situation, leakage, and old pipes.

CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore informed the court that they estimate a need for $3.3 million for water line replacement in some areas.

CUC legal counsel James Sirok reported on the status of water meters.

Last February, Carter raised concerns as to why some parts on the island have no 24-hour water supply. He then directed CUC and other parties to put up plans to resolve this problem.

September is dedicated to preparedness

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The month of September has been proclaimed CNMI Preparedness Month to educate every resident of the Commonwealth on how to prepare their homes, businesses, and communities for any emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office hosted the proclamation signing of CNMI Preparedness Month last Thursday, in line National Preparedness Month.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signed the proclamation.

This year's theme is "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How." that will highlight the importance of having an emergency plan and exercising it, learning and educating people about life-saving skills, reviewing insurance coverages to understand its importance and ensuring the appropriate protection for residents in times of disasters, and enhancing one's capability to save for emergencies.

According to HSEM information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero, HSEM has prepared a series of preparedness awareness trainings for tsunami, earthquakes, and man-made disasters like nuclear attacks or active shootings.

"Bank of Guam…will also teach how to save for emergencies," she said.

Deleon Guerrero said that different agencies have agreed to partner with HSEM to prepare different emergency kits. "For example, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau will…help prepare kits for new moms," she said.

Deleon Guerrero said this year's events will be far bigger than last year and will only continue to grow. "It's a collaborative effort and it's going to be a lot bigger than last year…we have other agencies partnering with us and it has really turned into a community effort. I just see this getting bigger and bigger as the years go by," she said.

MVA

From Page 1

negatively affected, Concepcion said, because this will mean reduced hotel occupancy tax collection.

He said they are concerned that there's not enough time between now and Sept. 30 to find a suitable hotel operator who will be able to maintain staffing and keep up with daily maintenance of the sprawling resort, the cottages and restaurants, the attached Mandi Asian Spa, the Kan Pacific swimming pool, the go-kart racing area, and Mariana Country Club.

"The last thing we want is for Mariana Resort to close or become abandoned," he said.

Noting that the Kan Pacific Group is one of the oldest investors in the CNMI, Concepcion said it is distressing to see the company close down after over 40 years of operation.

"This should not be allowed to happen," he added.

Concepcion said MVA is working doubly hard to revive the Japan market and having anchor Japanese investments here like Kan Pacific sends a strong signal to the market that the CNMI still values its partners from Japan.

"It is highly critical that we all work together as a community to ensure the future of the Japan market remains bright," he said.

Kan Pacific president Yoshihiro Kitami informed employees in a letter last week that they would be closing the Mariana Resort & Spa and the Mariana Country Club by Sept. 30.

This means the fate of 141 employees of Kan Pacific is in limbo.

"As you are very well aware, Kan Pacific's public land lease expired and was not granted an extension. Thus, we have no other choice but to close down operations and vacate our Marpi premises and facilities," Kitami told the employees.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is expected to take over the operations of Mariana Resort & Spa's facilities, as it was the lone company that submitted a bid for the property with the Department of Lands when the MRS lease expired this year. In social media posts, DPL has expressed itself perplexed about the decision, saying it was Kan Pacific itself that chose not to participate in the bidding process for the properties.

It was earlier reported that Close to 30 employees will be retained to continue with Kan Pacific's other business ventures: the Zen Teppanyaki restaurant in Garapan, the Mariana Lounge, and the Mariana Grand Service.

WSR student reports false kidnapping

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A fourth-grade student from William S. Reyes Elementary School alerted authorities last Thursday of an attempted kidnapping that turned out to be false.

Community members took to social media over the weekend to warn others about an alleged near-kidnapping incident at the WSR campus involving a fourth grader.

The Department of Public Safety responded to the incident and found that the fourth grader had been making up the story the entire time.

According to a report from DPS, officers responded last Thursday, Aug. 30, at approximately 9:17am, to a call regarding an attempted kidnapping at the WSR school in Chalan Kanoa.

Once at the scene, officers spoke to the alleged victim, a male fourth grade student, who said he was dropped off at school around 8am. According to the alleged victim, while walking to class, he noticed a man seated by the entrance of the eastern gate. He said the suspect was wearing dark pants, a dark shirt with a hood over his head, a cloth covering the bottom portion of his face, a pair of sunglasses, and a black hat with the letters "CNMI" printed in blue.

The alleged victim said the suspect followed him as he walked to class until he went inside the restroom. He said that the suspect waited outside the restroom, and grabbed him when he walked out.

The victim told police that he fought back as the suspect pulled him by his left arm, and once he broke free, he ran to class, and reported the incident to his teacher.

DPS officers immediately launched an investigation in an effort to locate the suspect but they discovered several inconsistencies in the victim's statement.

When investigators questioned the student again, he confessed there was no attempted kidnapping and that he made up the story.

'CPA pays CUC $400K a month'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Within a nine-month period, the Commonwealth Ports Authority's monthly power and water utility bill amounted to over $400,000, according to CPA personnel committee chair Roman Tudela.

Tudela

Citing that tenants are supposed to have sub-meters with CPA, Tudela expressed concern whether the tenants are paying CPA because CPA pays the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. based on the total reading.

"CPA then bills the tenants," said Tudela during a joint CPA airport, finance and personnel committee meeting at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom at the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

"The thing is, when the tenants pay, CPA should reduce its expenditures. Basically, that's my target—to reduce the expenditures," he said.

Tudela said that CPA used to only pay CUC about $200,000 a month.

He cited the amount to insist on CPA investing in solar energy. He said they had a proposal last year and it's been determined that CPA will be able to save half on its utility bill with the solar power.

Tudela said they should not neglect that and focus on transitioning to solar power.

He pointed out that the CNMI government is putting up another half a million dollars for a solar power project.

"Can we look at that and try to work out to at least find ways and means to cut back our expenditures and furthermore to work hard and save for other means to increase our revenue?" he asked.

Tudela, in a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said they are looking into the cause of the high utility bill.

He, however, stated that based on his recent discussion with the CPA executive director, one of the things that causes the higher utility bill, particularly power, is that a lot of the airport power lines are old.

"In some areas, even during daytime, the lights are still on," Tudela said.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and lawmakers recently held a groundbreaking on the hospital's solar power project.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna said that CHCC is estimated to save as much as $700,000 on its utility bills once the solar project is completed by 2019.

Japanese consul to honor *kendo* master

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Japanese Consular Office plans to present a prestigious award to a Japanese *kendo* master currently residing in the CNMI.

In an announcement from the Japanese Consular Office, Japanese kendo master Itsuro Hosoda would be awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation for fiscal year 2018.

Hosoda will be one of 205 recipients of this award, which is given to individuals with achievements in international fields. It acknowledges the recipients' contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries.

Hosoda would be receiving the award in the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan at 11am tomorrow. The awarding ceremony is hosted by Izumi Seki, consul general of Japan in Hagatna, Guam.

The Japanese Consular Office noted that Hosoda, who is the president of Himawari Saipan Inc., is being recognized because of his efforts in popularizing *kendo*, which is a traditional Japanese martial art that descended from swordsmanship, or *kenjutsu*.

Hosoda opened the Kendo Hall called Kenbu-Kan in Himawari, and he is currently teaching *kendo* to around 40 primary school students and adults free of charge. Hosoda did a *kendo* demonstration at the recent Autumn Festival organized by the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas and other events in the CNMI.

Hosoda has also hosted a lecture titled, "Spirit of Budo," at the Northern Marianas College. Budo is a Japanese term describing martial arts. In 2011, Hosoda sent trainees to participate in a boys *kendo* tournament in Nippon Budokan in Tokyo as a special treat for participants from abroad.

"This is one of many examples [Hosoda] has made a tremendous contribution to promote friendship between Japan and the CNMI through this kind of exchange activity," a statement from the Japanese Consular Office in Saipan noted.

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IT&E

Fate of Nauru refugees casts shadow over Pacific conference

NAURU (AP)—Shaped like a peanut and smaller than some big-city airports, this tropical Pacific island has an unusual history. Thanks to rich deposits of a fertilizer ingredient, Nauru's 11,000 citizens were once among the wealthiest people on earth. But after much of the phosphate was plundered, Nauru squandered its wealth on bad investments, like a 1993 musical about Leonardo da Vinci.

That left the island searching for new sources of income, and in recent years it found an answer by becoming a holding station for hundreds of refugees who tried to reach Australia by boat. Australia designed a policy of keeping boat refugees and asylum seekers far from its shores to deter more of them from trying to make the voyage, but many critics say the policy violates human rights.

The fate of those refugees, including a growing number of children who advocates say are suffering from life-threatening medical conditions, is casting a shadow over the Pacific Islands Forum conference that starts in Nauru on Monday night. The forum brings together 18 members, including Australia and New Zealand, to discuss regional issues.

On the agenda are plans for an enhanced regional security agreement and discussions on the threat that climate change poses for low-lying islands. China's growing role in the Pacific will likely be a point of tension, with some forum members favoring diplomatic relations with Taiwan. But Nauru has been eager to limit discussion of the refugees.

New Zealand's Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters, front left, is welcomed on his arrival at Nauru international airport on the tiny Pacific nation of Nauru Monday, Sept. 3, 2018. AP

For years, Nauru has effectively prevented most journalists from reporting firsthand by charging 8,000 Australian dollars ($5,750) to apply for a media visa. Nauru has waived the fee for the forum, but has allowed only a handful of journalists and placed restrictions on them.

Many of the more than 600 refugees on the island describe the hopelessness and depression they feel after being stuck in limbo for up to five years. They say they're not accepted by the locals, and that many of their children don't attend island schools because they are bullied or made to feel unwelcome.

While the U.S. has taken some of the refugees from Nauru under a deal struck by former President Barack Obama and reluctantly accepted by President Donald Trump, many refugees fleeing places like Iran and Somalia say they have no realistic hope of being allowed into the U.S. under its current immigration policies, which has sharpened their sense of despair.

A series of Australian court cases have described how some of the 120 or so refugee children on Nauru have been evacuated because they are suffering from resignation syndrome, a medical condition in which they withdraw socially and stop eating and drinking.

Ahead of the forum, Nauru has hit back at the findings.

"Sadly some refugee children on Nauru are being manipulated into self-harm by some of their families (supported by activists) in a disgusting & tragic political game," the government wrote on Twitter. "The end goal is to make international headlines & get to Australia. This is the real child abuse."

But Louise Newman, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Melbourne who has advocated for the refugee children, says some of their symptoms are impossible to fake.

"To all intents and purposes, they become comatose," she said. "It's like they go into hibernation from the overwhelming stress. Their brain switches off engagement with their social environment. They don't respond to pain. Their knee-jerk reflex is absent."

Newman said she has seen four cases of Nauru children aged between about 10 and 14 with resignation syndrome. She said they typically need to be rehydrated intravenously and that full recovery can take a year or more.

"It's very confronting," she said. "It speaks to me of the terrible consequences of policies that are poorly thought through for children. Australia should not be condoning what amounts to a form of state-sponsored child abuse."

Nauru in recent weeks has dismantled a much-criticized tent encampment that was home to some of the refugee families and relocated them into community housing. On Twitter, Nauru's government has denounced media reports that it was trying to polish its image ahead of the forum as "#FakeNews."

"Fact - it's dismantled because no longer needed," the government wrote.

Many of the leaders gathering this week in Nauru have little appetite for intervening in what they see as an issue between Nauru and Australia.

"We've got 50,000 people who are homeless back home," said New Zealand's Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters in Nauru, adding "we have to help fix their lives up as well before we start taking on new obligations of the level that some people would like."

Aside from the refugee issue, Australia faces other challenges at the forum, said Jonathan Pryke, the director of the Pacific islands program at Australia's Lowy Institute, a think tank.

A draft declaration for an enhanced security agreement states that climate change is the biggest risk to the region, Pryke said, yet climate change has become such a toxic issue in Australian politics that it helped topple former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last month.

Turnbull's replacement Scott Morrison is planning to skip the forum, which Pryke said is not a good look, and he will instead send new foreign minister Marise Payne.

"I imagine they'll have to hold their nose to sign off on the declaration," Pryke said of the Australian delegation.

He said that as a tiny island, Nauru, which has been independent for 50 years, has limited options for making money. Despite that, Pryke said, it has managed to confound pessimists by surviving several boom-and-bust periods and the sometimes extravagant lifestyles of its political elite.

After losing the money from the phosphate, Pryke said, Nauru, which is just 21 square kilometers (8 square miles), remade itself first as a tax haven and money laundering hub and later as the camp for Australia's refugees.

"They have been a bit of a chameleon when it comes to generating new revenue," he said. "It's a good income source for them now. But it does come at the cost of the wellbeing for individuals who are on the island against their will. It's hard to justify."

7 Guam Guard airmen are deployed

Seven airmen, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron, departed over the weekend en route to training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and a deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel in Southwest Asia.

After completion of the required training, the airmen will meet the remaining members and proceed to the deployed location.

They are tasked with the protection of federal property from hazards such as sabotage, espionage, trespass, theft, fire, and accident or willful damage and destruction and to maintain law and order, preserve the peace, and protect life and civil rights within the U.S. Central Command theater of operations in order to engineer combat power and establish and sustain combat platforms.

These members will join other airmen from the 254th Red Horse Squadron who are currently deployed or supporting missions around the world.

The Guam Air National Guard asks the public for their continued support as this deployment will have a significant impact on Guam's Air Guard component. ***(PR)***

Airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron pose for a photo as they departed over the weekend for training and a deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. They are, from left to right, front row: Maj. Gen. Roderick R. Leon Guerrero, the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard; Tech. Sgt. Jordanna Escobar, Airman First Class Meilani Quintanilla, A1C Jaedine Wells, A1C Clara Quichocho, A1C Kimberly Guiang, Brig. Gen. Johnny Lizama, assistant adjutant for Air; back row, from left: Col. Tim Puzan, commander, 254th Air Base Group; A1C Hance Barcinas and Maj. Alvin Alvarez, commander, 254th Security Forces Squadron.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

'24-hour operation to expedite IPR construction'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

ERWIN ENCINARES
Members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission prepare to enter the Imperial Pacific Resort construction site for the VIP wing Friday.

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan suggested last Friday that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC should look at a 24-hour construction operation in order to expedite the casino-resort's construction in Garapan.

Minutes after visiting the VIP wing construction site of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan, Sablan noted that the company should consider undergoing a 24-hour construction operation to expedite the project.

"The progress today…will pick up, but they need more manpower to continue, because I only see a few people here," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after visiting the site.

He noted that this was the commission's third site visit.

"Maybe they can address this [construction slowdown] with a 24-hour operation, especially with the critical parts of the operation," he said, noting that IPI need not seek permission from the commission, but from the Department of Public Works to operate around the clock.

IPI currently has scheduled construction operating hours, which is "okay" for safety purposes, said the chairman—"things that are very sensitive for safety"—but he pointed out that "they can do it in the night time [with fewer people on the streets]…They would have to keep up with their manpower, get more people to work on the place."

When asked if the IPI report about a 69.5-percent completion rate was reflected in the construction site, Sablan noted that it was not but is definitely "near."

IPI had reported at a recent casino commission meeting that the casino resort is about 69.5 percent complete. Commissioners, in previous casino commission meetings, expressed doubt about the company's report of progress.

Sablan noted that it is in the best interest of Saipan to complete the building.

"This is going to be a first-class facility," he said. "This is a plus to the Commonwealth. It is one edition that even Guam doesn't have—except for Las Vegas and Macau. Saipan is going to be added to the market, especially in high-end tourism."

Homeland Security to install fixed-position sirens

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office is preparing to begin construction work on a fixed-position siren project that is intended to "enhance" the community's awareness during an emergency.

During the Preparedness Awareness Month proclamation signing last Thursday, HSEM information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero said the office is in the process of installing five fixed-position sirens throughout Saipan to assist in the event a tsunami warning is issued.

"We haven't installed the sirens yet; we are still in the procurement process. It is a lengthy process. We had to go through bidding, we had to go through all kinds of processes before we actually determined a vendor and then go assess the different sites we are looking at installing them," she said.

"We're now just waiting for the property from Department of Public Lands to be handed over to Homeland Security to allow us to start construction for the sirens," she added.

Deleon Guerrero said the sirens are designed to alert people when a tsunami warning is issued.

The fixed-position sirens will sound just like the Marianas High School siren when it goes off but a lot louder and will reach up to four or five different villages per siren.

The sirens will be placed in Tanapag, Chalan Lau Lau, As Perdido, Navy Hill, and Kagman.

"We've already designated the areas. We've looked at Tanapag…that is going to assist in alerting San Roque, Tanapag, and Lower Base. We will have one in Chalan Kiya that's going to alert Oleai, Chalan Lau Lau…Susupe and parts of Chalan Kanoa. Then we will have one in As Perdido that is going to alert San Antonio, Chalan Piao, and parts of Chalan Kanoa. The fourth one will be on Navy Hill that is going to alert all of Garapan and Puerto Rico…[There will be] one siren for Kagman because we do have vulnerability at the Wing Beach area," she said.

"This project," she said.

Deleon Guerrero said the sirens will be primarily used for tsunami warnings but HSEM is considering using them as all-hazard sirens in the future.

HSEM predicts the sirens to be up and running by the end of 2019 and an official community drill will be conducted by 2020.

Deleon Guerrero said the sirens are being funded through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation programs fund.

HSEM is also working on securing one more siren for either Tinian or Rota.

Deleon Guerrero said the sirens will not be placed in safe zones like Dandan, Koblerville, etc., because Homeland Security wants to encourage individuals living in those areas to stay put and allow individuals from lower parts of Saipan to make it to the safe zones.

"Whenever a tsunami warning is issued, give a chance to those from the western coast to make their way up to safe ground," she said.

Each siren will be placed about 40 feet in the air and the siren itself is about 10 feet tall.

"It's a very big improvement for the CNMI and our office is the one spearheading

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC monthly meeting on Thursday

The monthly meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for Sept. 5, 2018, at Kanoa Resort.

Guest speakers will be Alex A. Sablan of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., where he will share some important updates; Arielle Buyum, executive director of Latte Training Academy, who will provide updates on the classes held through the CW program funding that they were included under for the first time in 2018; an updates on the Junior Achievement Program Advisory Council.

Lunch will begin at 11:30am and the meeting will follow promptly at 12pm. For reservations of six or more, call (670) 234-7150.

The Chamber office will be closed today, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 5 and 6, from 3pm to 11pm.

The military will also conduct training at the Island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 4, from 11am to 2pm
- Sept. 5, from 11am to 2pm
- Sept. 9, from 12:01am to 11:55pm

It is recommended that the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (March 21, 2018)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. ITEMS:
1. Committee Reports
2. Tandem Skydive's CPA Field request
3. Terminal Tariff Amendment- Wharfage
4. Personnel Rules and Regulations
5. Resolutions:
   a. Loan
   b. Credit Card
6. Phoenix Services – Removal of Miss Saipan
7. Emergency Procurement for Fenders at the Port of Saipan
8. Airline Incentive Program
9. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPI)/Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Installation Project – Change Order 1 and Supplemental Budget Request
10. Airport Concessions Small Business Enterprise (ACSBE) Program
11. Car Rental Concession (Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (Rota), Tinian International Airport)
    a. Scope of Concession
    b. Determination of Procurement Process
    c. Proposed Evaluation Plan

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

September 3, 2018

Ficke wins Best of Show award at auto fest

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Taga Customs owner Sean Ficke handily pocketed the Best of Show award at the 2018 Island Summer Auto Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot last Saturday night.

Ficke, who won several other awards, got the Best of Show award for his tricked-out 2016 Toyota Tacoma.

The same Tacoma went on to receive the first-place prize in the 4x4 category and the AK award, a category that judges all car brands under Atkins Kroll: Toyota, Lexus, and Scion, while his "CNMI Blue" 1993 Mazda RX-7 won first place in the two-door category with 392 total points as well as the Triple J Motors award, which clumps brands Mazda, Hyundai, and Mitsubishi together.

"We worked really hard with taking care of the customers and the vehicles that we work on. I believe this success [means] doing hard work pays off," Ficke said, talking about his Mazda RX-7, which he noted was more worrisome than his Toyota Tacoma.

"We've had a lot of challenges this year on trying to get things done, all the way down to the wire and getting the wrapping done today. I am very grateful to a lot of people for contributing and helping out," he said, mentioning a long list of contributors such as Ideal Signs, Triple J, Philippine Eagle, Taga Customs, and more. "It's not just me, it's a lot of people coming together and the product speaking for itself," he added.

Alongside Ficke, Jaymark De Guzman nabbed second place for the 4x4 category. First and second place for the truck category went to Abe Barce's red 1991 Toyota pick-up and Crisanto Calub's blue 1994 Toyota Hilux, respectively. The first place for the cafe bike category went to AJ Llagas' 2013 Yamaha R6.

Buddy Igitol's black 2007 Harley Davidson Softail got him third place in the cruiser bike category, while Zachary Sasamoto's red pearl 2005 Harley Davidson Sportster got him second place. Ton Basa's black 2014 Harley Davidson V-Rod Muscle nabbed first in the category.

The Honda Ruckus dominated in the scooter/moped category, with the black and white 2005 version of the scooter winning George David third place in the category. The beige 2002 and silver and grey 2008 versions of the scooter won Angel C. Reyes and Sidney Camacho second and first places, respectively.

Rip Stephanson's black 1991 Ford Mustang nabbed first place in the classics category as well as the Joeten Motors Award.

Norma Quichocho's black 2014 Mazda 2 hatchback sport won third place in the four-door category, while Anthony Allen's red 2015 Kia Soul got him second place in the four-door category. Derek Reyes' grey 2017 Mitsubishi Lancer nabbed first place in the category.

Tyler Palacios' matte grey 2006 Nissan 350z Roadster was awarded third place of the two-door category; Arvin Mettao's silver blue 2003 Infiniti G35 coupe was awarded second place while Ficke's CNMI blue 1993 Mazda RX-7 won first.

Maylyn Agulto's blue Honda Civic LX won third place in the sound off competition while Rick Ramos' steel grey 2017 Honda HR-V placed second and Fidel Alomia's black 2001 Honda Coupe nabbed first.

Auto fest organizer James Fleming told *Saipan Tribune* that a point system was used to judge the vehicles.

"We look at the overall of the car…what you built in the car—the engine, the interior, exterior, under carriage, suspension, etc.—pretty much the entire car," he added.

Bikes of all sizes were also highlighted during the Summer Auto Fest 2018 Saturday at the Summer Auto Fest 2018 at the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza. ERWIN ENCINARES

Best in Show award winner Sean Ficke receives his award for his 1997 CNMI blue Mazda RX-7 Saturday evening at the conclusion of the Summer Auto Fest 2018 at the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza. ERWIN ENCINARES

Cars of different makes and models were on display during the 2018 Summer Auto Fest Saturday at the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza. ERWIN ENCINARES

Humanities council sends off Russell as he retires

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Scott Russell poses with several past board chairs of the NMI Humanities Council at his retirement party Friday evening at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.
Photos by ERWIN ENCINARES

The Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council hosted Friday evening a cocktail party at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, as a sort of sendoff for council executive director Scott Russell, who is retiring,

Russell will retire this month. Part of his plans for the near future is to visit his family in the U.S. mainland. He assured, though, that he will still return to the CNMI.

"I have a brother that is not doing well and I haven't seen my daughter in four years, so I want to go and spend some time with her. After that, I would return; I still have a house here. There are many fish to kill and I haven't had a chance to shoot yet," he said, adding that his brother is in Ohio and his daughter in Oregon. Russell is an avid spear fisherman.

Russell, a former U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, has been in the CNMI since being involved with the Peace Corps from 1974-1976.

He then worked as a staff historian for the Office of Historic Preservation, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan from August 1977 to July 1982. Russell moved on to work as a deputy director and staff historian for the Division of Historic Preservation under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs until 2001.

From 2001 to 2004, Russell worked as a program officer for the NMI Council for the Humanities before moving on as an assistant executive director and program officer for the NMI Council for the Humanities from December 2004 to December 2009, before ultimately working as an executive director for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Russell expects future leaders of the council to be further involved with the globalization of the NMI.

"We got a fantastic board and solid staff, so I expect really good things from the council in the coming years," he said. "I am looking for new leadership and new vision for the things that the council would tackle. I believe they would be dealing with more contemporary issues. Dealing with the Commonwealth now, with all the economic development and social issues and all of the things happening within the larger Pacific context, I am looking forward to them tackling those issues and providing great humanities programs to the people of the Commonwealth."

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) both recognized Russell for his work in the CNMI by presenting him with House Commemorative Resolution 20-18, which Deleon Guerrero authored.

Scott Russell delivers a brief speech at his retirement party Friday evening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Scott Russell, left, poses with Tina Sablan, representing Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, as she presents him with a certificate of commendation during his retirement party Friday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), left, and Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), center, pose with Scott Russell as he is presented a plaque of House Commemorative Resolution 20-18 Friday evening at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Scott Russell shakes the hand of press secretary Kevin Bautista, who was representing Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at Russell's retirement party Friday evening at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Saipan Mayor's Office director of field operations Joann Aquino, left, Saipan Museum chief Daniel Aquino, and Japanese Consul to the CNMI Kinji Shinoda, right, attend the retirement party of Scott Russell Friday evening at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

People scramble to take a photo with NMI Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell, as his retirement party concludes Friday evening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Scott Russell, center, poses with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, far left, Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, second right, and Lino Olopai, far right, at Russell's retirement party Friday evening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Scott Russell reunites with old colleagues as he also speaks with Rep. Ed Propst, Ivan Propst, and House precinct II candidate Tina Sablan at Russell's retirement party Friday evening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Opinion

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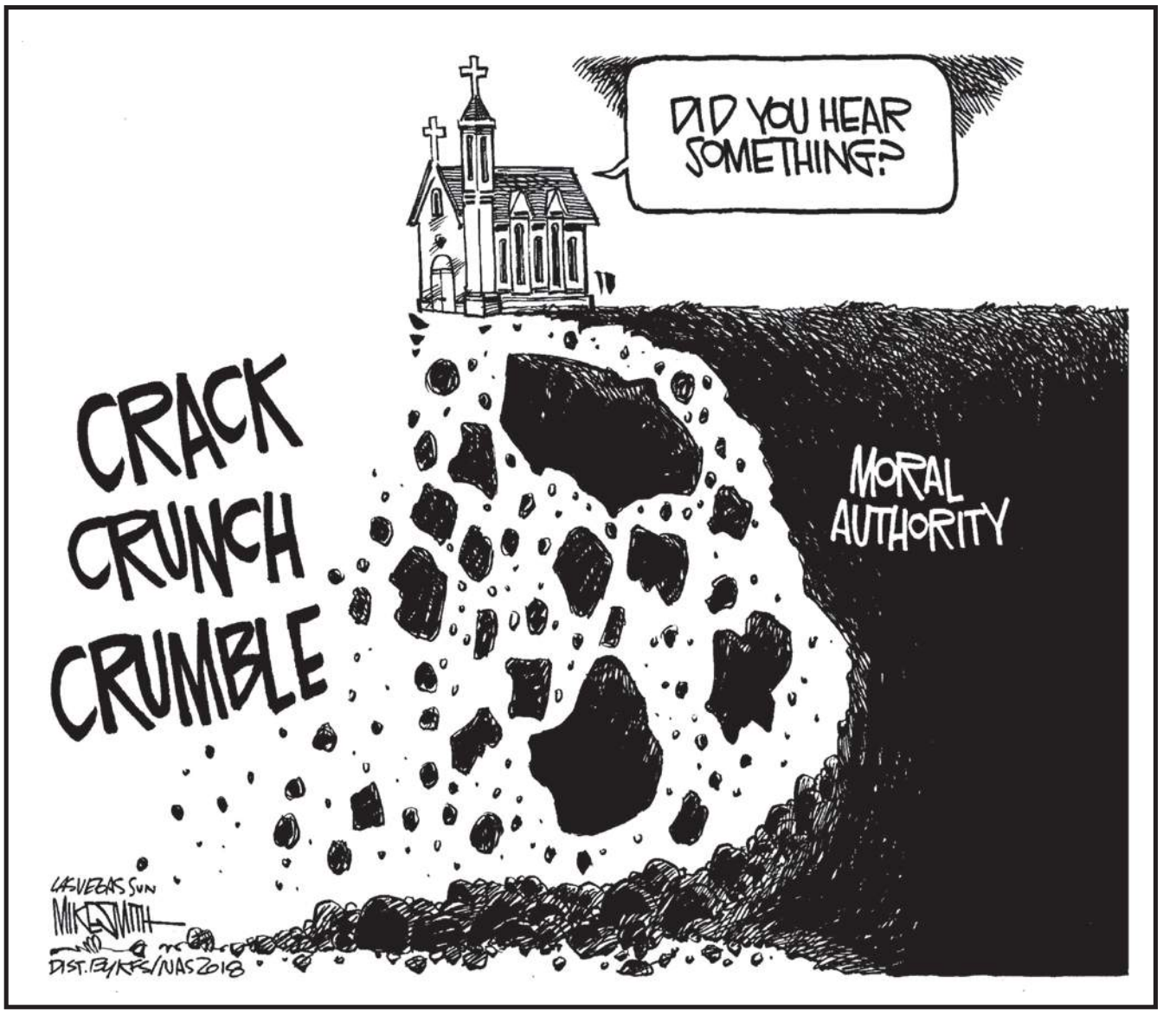


EDITORIAL

Schools are no place for guns

OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/TNS

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos speaks during a Cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

The federal government should not use taxpayer money to put guns in schools. There is no precedent for it, and education grants are commonly restricted from being used to purchase weapons.

The National Education Association is opposed to arming teachers. Legislators are opposed to it. Even the $50 million STOP School Violence Act, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in March, explicitly forbids the money from being used to buy firearms.

So why is Education Secretary Betsy DeVos even entertaining the question? Because Texas officials asked if the money could be used to pay for a firearms program there. But she must answer with a resounding "No."

At issue is a program known as the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants, which—unlike other federal education grants—do not clearly forbid weapons purchases. Texas asked the U.S. Department of Education for clarification on what those grants can be used for, and it's a fair question. And DeVos should not be castigated for simply considering a legitimate question from a grant recipient.

But her hesitation to respond quickly shows that she's willing to consider it. Given her previous statement that guns in schools could protect children from "potential grizzlies," it's clear where her sympathies lie.

If she gives Texas the green light, then any state could use the money to arm teachers, which goes against broad federal policy and the wishes of educators across the country, not to mention common sense.

It seems obvious that the best thing for DeVos to do would be to tell Texas that the money should not be spent on guns, in line with precedent. Some, including U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., have argued that states should have flexibility to spend block grant money as they see fit. But restricting state officials from using the money to buy guns hardly ties their hands.

The loophole needs to be closed, and quickly.

Guns and schools don't mix, and taxpayer money shouldn't be used to endanger children. DeVos should make that clear.

(c)2018 *The Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.)*

Double standards

By CAL THOMAS
Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

Finding someone in Washington who is nonpartisan and puts the nation's interests ahead of their own is so rare these days that he or she, if found, might well qualify as an endangered species.

But once in a while—call it the law of averages—someone speaks the truth. It happened last week when Mark Penn, former adviser to Bill and Hillary Clinton, wrote a column for The Hill newspaper in which he claimed there is a big difference between how Hillary Clinton and President Trump have been treated when it comes to allegations of criminal behavior.

Penn then appeared on Fox News where he spoke of the "double standard" applied to Trump and his associates compared to how Clinton was exonerated by FBI Director James Comey over her private email server and her handling of classified information. "The investigations related to the email were handled with kid gloves, and the investigations related to Trump ... with all-out prosecutorial force of government and deep state might," Penn said.

It doesn't matter. The long knives have been drawn by those who want to reverse the results of the 2016 election and put themselves back in power. They will not be sheathed until blood is drawn, preferably the blood of the president, whose personality might not win him any good deportment citations on a grade school report card, but whose policies are making the nation stronger.

Neither does it matter that no evidence of Russian "collusion" by the Trump campaign has yet to be uncovered. That train seems to have long ago left the station, replaced by other strategies to bring down the president, none of which were part of the special counsel's original mandate.

Indeed, on July 13 when Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein announced the indictment of 12 Russians for their alleged roles in hacking computers at the Democratic National Committee and other sites, he said: "There's no allegation in this document that any American citizen committed a crime. There's no allegation that the conspiracy changed the vote count or affected any election result."

Rosenstein knows the indicted Russians will never be extradited and tried, so it looks to most conservatives like a public relations stunt designed to show that Robert Mueller was pursuing what he had been tasked with discovering.

Having failed to achieve that objective, the tentacles of his office have spread out in other directions, now reaching the Trump organization where its CEO has been granted full federal immunity and will likely be required to divulge anything—perhaps even those long-hidden Trump income tax returns, which Democrats have wanted made public since the 2016 campaign.

President Trump needs to refocus and stop attacking his political enemies, and even his friends, and start worrying about his most pressing problem. As The Wall Street Journal editorialized, "The biggest political threat to Mr. Trump is a Democratic election victory in November, which will trigger a drive for impeachment. Mr. Trump isn't going to persuade anyone to vote for Republicans by railing against a Republican attorney general he selected."

He should stop publicly admonishing Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who early on recused himself from all things Russian. After the president's latest criticism of Sessions, Sessions issued a statement defending the law and the integrity of the Department of Justice against the president's constant criticism.

Yes, the DOJ has behaved differently under Sessions (and Rosenstein) than it did when Eric Holder, described as President Obama's "wing man," held that post, but nothing can be done about that now. The president should concern himself with what is being done on other fronts where he can credibly claim success. The problem is that his constant attacks on others, which achieve little, have obscured many of his accomplishments.

Americans want to be happy about the present and optimistic about the future. This president—any president—should see that as his main calling and pull back on his Twitter barrages. There should be only one standard for a president's behavior.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America's record-setting economy makes it boom time for workers

By ADAM N. MICHEL
Tribune News Service

Adam N. Michel is a policy analyst specializing in tax and budgetary issues for The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies.

PRO

WASHINGTON—Workers have been better off almost every year since America started its slow climb out of the Great Recession in 2009. But this year is different. Things aren't just a bit better—we're setting records!

After years of slow wage growth, slow economic growth, stagnant job creation, and declining business investment, all of these measures are improving—and fast.

We're in the midst of the longest-running period of businesses adding new jobs. More job openings are a sign of a healthy economy, one in which employees have the upper hand.

Because of this, workers report the highest job satisfaction since 2005, and those who aren't happy are voluntarily leaving for better opportunities at the highest rate ever recorded.

The sustained good economic news is due in no small part to last year's tax cuts and the Trump administration's elimination of unnecessary regulations that were dampening growth.

The tax cuts are letting average American families keep about $3,000 more in their pocketbooks—money that they're now spending on back-to-school shopping, end-of-summer vacations or other family priorities. Those fatter paychecks are helping fuel consumer confidence, which reached an 18-year high in August.

And there are more paychecks, too. Businesses are taking their tax cuts and turning them into new jobs and new investments, further fueling the strong economy.

Many workers are benefiting twice from the tax cuts. First, by paying less in taxes, and second from higher wages generated by a faster-growing economy.

The Heritage Foundation recently calculated that over the next decade, the typical American household will reap an additional $26,000 in take-home pay thanks to the cuts and the growth they fuel.

For a family of four, the 10-year benefits are almost $45,000—more than enough to buy a new car or put a down payment on a house.

The economic growth has already started to take off. Since tax reform passed, over 1 million net new jobs have been created. Companies are also using their tax savings to increase bonuses, wages, and charitable giving.

Evidence of the economic rebound can be found in virtually every business district and across Main Street in America.

Just look at the storefront windows. You're bound to see more "help wanted" signs than you've seen in a long while. Businesses are vigorously looking for workers.

Unemployment is close to historic lows. For the first time, there are more jobs available than people looking for them—even though a growing number of people are reentering the job market after a poor economy pushed them out years ago.

What's most impressive is that the lowest-income workers are benefiting the most. Wage growth for workers in construction, hospitality, and retail have outpaced both inflation and wage growth in the rest of the economy. In May, wage growth for rank-and-file, nonsupervisory workers posted its best annual gain since 2009, and it continues to increase.

Because wage growth for lower-wage workers has outpaced high-income earners, income inequality has decreased over the past three years.

As tax reform continues to promote a strong economy and unnecessary regulations are rolled back, you can expect this trend to continue.

The future is not without uncertainty, however. Many of the tax cuts expire after 2025, and Congress is unwilling to reduce the growth rate of federal spending, which drives up our debt and threatens the prosperity of future generations.

To solidify this broad-based economic expansion, Congress must make the tax cuts permanent and place meaningful limits on federal budgets.

This Labor Day, American workers are better off than they have been in almost two decades. With the right policy locked in, the future can be even brighter.

Labor has lost much in past four decades: Fed threatens recent gains

By MARK WEISBROT
Tribune News Service

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, and the president of Just Foreign Policy.

CON

WASHINGTON—This Labor Day, the vast majority of Americans who need to work for a living still have a long way to go before they recover what they have lost over the past four decades.

The real inflation-adjusted median wage is only about 10 percent above what it was in 1979.

As economist Dean Baker has noted, we can also see part of this transformation of the United States into a more shamefully unequal society if we look at the distribution of national income between profits and labor.

If not for this redistribution from wages to profits from 2000-2016, the average worker today would have an additional $4,000 per year in annual income.

This historic redistribution of income and wealth was the result of choices made by our political leaders and decision-makers. Among them:

■ They chose to maintain higher levels of unemployment and interest rates than necessary.

■ They subjected workers to increasingly harsh international competition while protecting highly paid professionals and CEOs.

■ They increased protectionism for patent holders, including pharmaceutical companies who charge tens of thousands of dollars for cancer drugs that would sell for a small fraction of these prices in competitive markets.

■ They changed labor law so that unions' bargaining power would be reduced to levels not seen for most of the 20th century.

The Trump administration claims that workers' long night is over, as evidenced by the current headline unemployment rate of 3.9 percent; and that it is responsible for the historically low unemployment.

But this reduction in unemployment is the continuation of an economic recovery that began under the Obama administration, and is overwhelming the result of policy decisions by the Federal Reserve, not the president or Congress.

Beginning in December 2008, the Fed kept short-term interest rates near zero for seven years and also created trillions of dollars during much of this period to push down long-term rates.

The Fed is the main determinant of the rate of unemployment; but what the Fed giveth, the Fed taketh way. The Fed began to reverse these policies in 2015; it has raised rates twice this year and is expected to raise them two more times before the year is over.

The Fed has had no valid reason for these interest rate hikes. The Fed targets an inflation rate of 2 percent, but its preferred measure of inflation is still at 1.9 percent. And inflation has been below target for almost all of the past 9 years.

Most Americans don't know this, but when the Fed raises interest rates it is intentionally slowing the rate of job creation, in order make unemployment higher than it would otherwise be; and thereby putting downward pressure on wages.

Since World War II, the Fed has caused all of the recessions in the US except for the last two, which were caused by the bursting of the stock market bubble in 2000 and then the housing bubble in 2007.

Most immediately, the Fed threatens to reverse much of the gains in employment that we have made in the current economic expansion, even though real wages did not even grow over the past year.

For the longer term, Trump and his congressional allies have moved to continue the march towards greater inequality: for example with the tax give-away to corporations and the rich and Trump's selection of anti-labor and right-wing judges for the federal courts, increasing inequality in education, and other policies.

Reversing labor's losses over the past four decades will therefore require blocking the Fed from increasing unemployment—or worse, tipping the economy into recession and then undoing some of the structural changes that have created such obscene levels of inequality.

The 5 W and How: Past future and Now (who, what, when, where, why, and how)

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"The loss of liberty in general would soon follow the suppression of the liberty of the press; for it is an essential branch of liberty, so perhaps it is the best preservative of the whole."

—John Peter Zenger (1697-1746)

John Peter Zenger contributed to the development of the free press in colonial America. His work was on the minds of the framers of our U.S. Constitution. Amendment 1, Bill of Rights, states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The 5W how is a standard journalist's list of questions.

Who we are, What we are, and Why, Where is mirth
is Where we are as important as How we are today
haven't we been changing daily since our birth
What have we been doing When at work, home, or play
Why do we seem to crave or need more and more mirth
What we love changes sometimes more sometimes less
travel broadens minds and outlook all over the earth
When and Why do we go back to learn more about goodness
5W How questions and answers fill many an encyclopedia
at times we discover them on our own sometimes in news
our President 'guides' us calling the press "lying media"
'Fake! Fake!' he shouts at newspapers his favorite views
to all readers of this sonnet please use the 5 W How
speak up about injustice in the Past, the Future, and Now.

Mirth Masters Monkeyshines

"Sincere and unspiteful laughter is mirth, but where is there any mirth in our time, and do people know how to be mirthful? A man's mirth is a feature that gives away the whole man, from head to foot. Only a man of the loftiest and happiest development knows how to be mirthful infectiously, that is, irresistibly and good heartedly. I'm not speaking of his mental development, but of his character, of the whole man. If a man has a good laugh, it means he's a good man."

—Fyodor Dostoyevsky, (1821-1881)

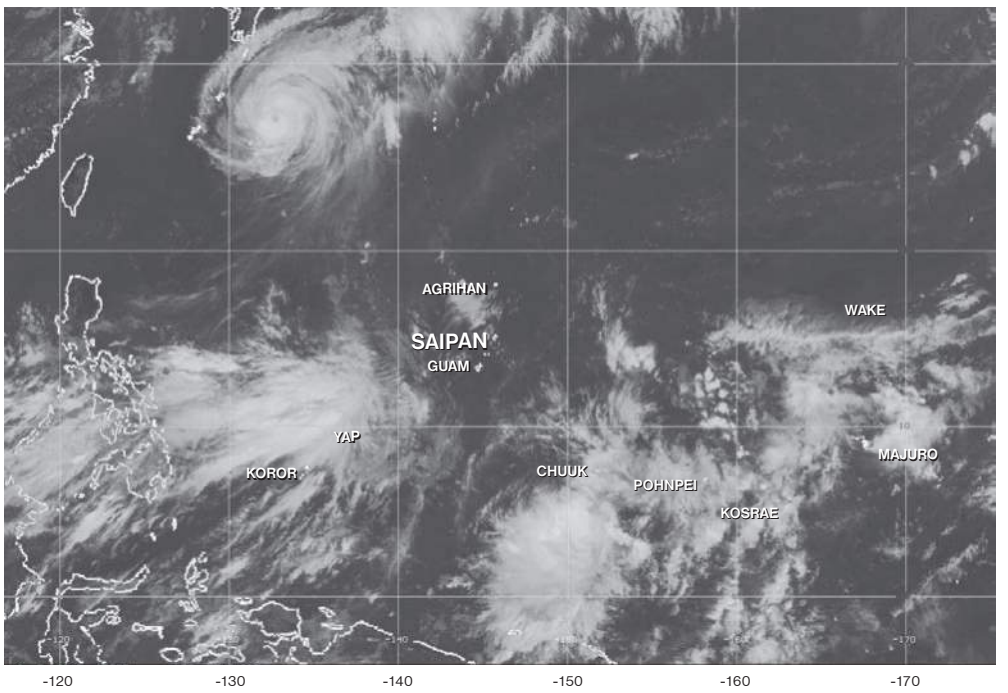
Hats off to idiots all fools and half
wits, more or less, some of them nit
wits that cause whiners to laugh
and giggle like babies drooling spit
All hail big jerks those jolly old elves
using their loudmouths with every breath
making fantastic fools of themselves
as others laugh themselves to death
salutations to the big showoff
bragging about this, showing off that
most folks just blow them off
continue shooting the breeze, chewing the fat
hope these jokers will be around for a while
always good for a good laugh and a smile.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:36 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only minor changes were made to the forecast, as winds will be light for the next several days with isolated thunderstorms possible thru Tuesday, and island thunderstorms over the islands Wednesday afternoon. Tanapag and Ritidian uoys show seas lingering near 7 feet at times with a period of 11-12 seconds. This would result in surf as high as 9 feet, so have extended the High Surf Advisory through today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	64° / 55°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 77°
Paris	Thunderstorm	81° / 59°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°
Salem	Thunderstorm	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	65° / 55°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	86° / 73°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	92° / 77°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
8:24 AM	LOW TIDE	0.02
3:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60
8:37 PM	LOW TIDE	1.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:11 AM	1:24 PM	-
Wednesday	1:07 AM	2:24 PM	-
Thursday	2:07 AM	3:24 PM	-
Friday	3:09 AM	4:22 PM	-
Saturday	4:12 AM	5:17 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

China's Xi promotes 'Belt and Road' as Africa growth tool

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday promoted Beijing's initiative to build ports and other infrastructure to African leaders as a tool for "common prosperity" in a world facing challenges from trade protectionism.

Speaking to businesspeople ahead of a conference with dozens of African leaders, Xi said the "Belt and Road" initiative will expand markets. He tried to mollify concern Beijing wants to build strategic influence, promising Chinese investment comes with "no political strings attached."

"Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise. Economic growth lacks robust drive," said Xi in a speech. "China-Africa cooperation under the BRI is a way to common prosperity that brings benefits to both our peoples."

African and other Asian leaders have welcomed "Belt and Road" but some projects have prompted complaints about debt and other problems. The initiative involves hundreds of projects, most of them built by Chinese contractors and financed by loans from Chinese state-owned banks, across an arc of 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and the Middle East.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation brings together leaders from China and more than 50 African countries. Dozens of African leaders met with Xi ahead of the conference.

Xi made no mention of the political and debt concerns that overshadow some "Belt and Road" projects. But Chinese officials previously have rejected accusations that projects leave host countries too deeply indebted to Chinese lenders.

"China's investment in Africa comes with no political strings attached," said Xi. "China does not interfere in Africa's internal affairs and does not impose its own will on Africa."

African delegates walk by a screen panel showing a footage of Chinese President Xi Jinping with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ahead of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing, Monday, Sept. 3, 2018. AP

Trump sees mixing trade, foreign policy as good politics

WASHINGTON (AP)—When President Donald Trump pulled the plug on an upcoming trip to North Korea by his secretary of state, he pointed a finger of blame at China and the global superpower's trade practices.

In his recent trade breakthrough with Mexico, Trump praised the country's outgoing president for his help on border security and agriculture.

Both developments offered fresh evidence of how Trump has made trade policy the connective tissue that ties together different elements of his "America First" foreign policy and syncs up them with his political strategy for the 2020 presidential election.

Trump's 2016 triumph was paved in part by his support among blue-collar voters in Midwestern manufacturing states that narrowly supported him over Democrat Hillary Clinton, including Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

His aggressive trade tactics, epitomized by tariffs and standoffs with longtime economic partners and allies, are aimed at reversing what he has long viewed as unfair trade deals while maintaining support among largely white, working-class voters who have been hurt by the loss of manufacturing jobs.

"Trump understands that economic policy is foreign policy and vice versa," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. "The most important element of foreign policy is to not just keep the world safe but to also promote America's economic interest. That's what Trump does—this is America First."

It's also good politics, in Trump's view.

"It's a populist position. But it's also a popular position with a lot of Americans," Moore said.

As he puts a high premium on trade gains, Trump is intertwining the issue with a host of top foreign policy concerns.

Trump, asked by reporters last week about North Korea living up to its commitments to denuclearize, said "part of the North Korean problem is caused by our trade disputes with China," pointing to the U.S. trade imbalance with China.

"We have to straighten out our trade relationship because too much money is being lost by us," Trump said. "And as you know, China is the route to North Korea."

Trade has been a common refrain at the president's rallies, where he has vowed to pursue "fair and reciprocal trade."

"We don't want stupid trade like we had for so long," Trump said during a rally in Duluth, Minnesota, in June.

Trump's second year as president has been marked by a number of trade disputes with traditional U.S. allies and global rivals alike, an approach cemented by his tweet that "trade wars are good."

He imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in March, prompting retaliation from the European Union and other American allies. Later in the month, Trump announced tariffs on China to combat what he called the theft of U.S. technology from a wide range of goods and services.

China struck back with its own sanctions on a variety of U.S. products, including Midwest farm-produced soybeans in a way to hit hard against the president's base of voters. The two sides have clashed during the spring and summer, raising the stakes in their trade fight.

In late July, Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker reached a temporary deal at the White House to avert tariffs on automobile imports and a ramping up of their trade dispute—although the threat still remains.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Neutralizing age bias in a job interview

Q As a middle-aged woman starting a job search, I have found that most interviewers are much younger. I am afraid these young people may automatically screen me out because of my age. What can I do to overcome that bias and show that I'm a qualified candidate worth considering?

A Despite being illegal, age discrimination is unfortunately real, so you are wise to consider the possibility and take steps to minimize it. Start by focusing on those traits which will impress almost any interviewer.

Smile, be friendly, project confidence, and show enthusiasm for the job. Explain how your background relates to the position and have relevant examples to share. Demonstrate knowledge of their organization and ask intelligent questions.

To reduce age prejudice, you must remain up-to-date. Keep your professional knowledge fresh and sharpen your technical skills. Stay on top of the latest news, including "soft" topics like sports and entertainment. You should also be familiar with mainstream social media and online job sites.

Dress in age-appropriate contemporary fashions and keep your hairstyle and make-up current, but do not try to look twenty years younger. Since poor health habits can make you appear older, remember to exercise, eat properly, and get enough sleep.

Unfortunately, you must also be prepared for age-related questions. Although employers aren't supposed to ask, they sometimes do anyway. You should definitely be ready for this one: "How do you feel about working for a younger manager?"

Finally, maintain a positive outlook, because bitterness and resentment will always show through. And never make jokes about your age, their age, or the age difference, because no one will find that amusing.

■■■■

Q After every performance review, my manager tells me I deserve a better raise. He says that the company had another bad year and his own raise was also very small. Because he believes our whole group is doing a good job, he always splits our small increase budget equally.

The last time I got this run-around, I finally had enough. Because the cost of living has risen faster than my salary, I am actually moving backwards financially. I informed my boss that if the company didn't want to pay me appropriately, I saw no reason to continue working as hard as I had in the past. What do you think about this?

A Let me see if I have this straight. Business is bad, and the pay increase budget is limited. Your boss received a meager raise himself and is trying to treat a group of good performers equitably. While I certainly feel your financial pain, I can't see what the issue is here.

Everyone wants their compensation to increase, but the unfortunate reality is that this doesn't always happen. Just ask almost anyone who suffered through the last recession. So if you are concerned about rising costs and stagnant income, the only way to change that equation is to reduce expenses or find a better-paying job

The worst possible move, however, is to retaliate for lower pay by threatening to do less work. If you follow through on this warning, your increases may get even smaller. And if business continues to decline, your salary could ultimately drop to zero.

Nation

Trump visits golf course while Washington mourns McCain

STERLING, Va. (AP)—For President Donald Trump, it was just like any other Saturday.

As political dignitaries gathered in Washington to memorialize Sen. John McCain, the president tweeted familiar grievances and headed to the golf course.

McCain's family had made clear the president was not welcome at the funeral for the six-term senator and decorated war veteran at the Washington National Cathedral. Seated in the pews were three former presidents, a host of lawmakers, and top officials from around the world. Speakers at the service did not mention Trump by name but repeatedly drew contrasts between McCain's record of service and the divisive politics of the day.

The White House did not answer questions about whether Trump played golf or if he watched the service from afar.

Dressed in a white polo shirt and baseball hat, Trump left the White House in the morning as the late senator's daughter, Meghan McCain, delivered an emotional address that served as a direct rebuke of Trump and his policies. The tributes still underway, the presidential motorcade whisked him to Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.

Throughout the day, Trump tweeted gripes about trade talks with Canada and the Justice Department. By midafternoon he had not named McCain, who had been an infuriating foil in a long-running feud that did not end with the senator's illness and death. Earlier in the week, Trump drew sharp rebukes for offering a terse statement about McCain's death under pressure following two days of near-silence.

The feelings of many at the memorial were quite clear. Meghan McCain drew applause when she said, "The America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great."

As the memorial service unfolded, some Trump allies jumped to his defense.

"@realDonaldTrump ran for @POTUS ONE time and WON! Some people will never recover from that," tweeted Katrina Pierson, an adviser to Trump's re-election campaign.

Trump has frequented his golf courses in Virginia, New Jersey and Florida throughout his presidency, though the White House often will not say if he plays. Trump repeatedly blistered President Barack Obama during the 2016 campaign for golfing, telling cheering supporters that as president he'd be far too busy working for them.

"I'm not gonna have time to go play golf," he would shout.

Trump's visit to the course drew some direct commentary. When the president left his club in the midafternoon a small group of protesters greeted him. Their signs read "Lock Him Up" and "RIP John McCain, a hero."

Family, friends say final goodbye to McCain

AP

In this photo provided by the family of John McCain, Cindy McCain lays her head on the casket of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., during a burial service at the cemetery at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Sen. John McCain's final journey ended on a grassy hill at the U.S. Naval Academy within view of the Severn River and earshot of midshipmen present and future, and alongside a lifelong friend.

A horse-drawn caisson carrying the senator's casket led a procession of mourners from the academy's chapel to its cemetery Sunday following a private service. The senator's widow, Cindy, and his children were among those who walked behind the caisson. Joining them were family and friends as well as members of McCain's Class of 1958 and military leaders.

The U.S. Navy band played marches along the way and several hundred Naval Academy midshipmen lined the path. A flyover of military aircraft in "missing man" formation honored the Navy pilot who was shot down over Vietnam and held more than five years as a prisoner of war.

After the American flag was removed from the casket, a grieving Cindy McCain pressed her check to its surface and McCain sons Jimmy and Jack shared a hug. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis presented flags to Cindy McCain and Roberta McCain, the senator's 106-year-old mother.

The burial was private as per the wishes of McCain, the Arizona Republican and 2008 presidential nominee died Aug. 25 from brain cancer at age 81.

Those offering tributes or readings during the funeral service included Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; McCain sons Jack and Douglas; retired Gen. David Petraeus, former CIA director; and Mark Salter, McCain's longtime co-author.

Petraeus said McCain was a man of "great courage, unshakable determination, and unwavering devotion to our country and those who defend it," according to remarks released by the family.

Jack McCain said of his father, "He fought hard, obstinately, exuberantly because he liked to fight, but more importantly, because he believed in what he was fighting for." He later added, "My father fought and suffered, endured defeats, rose from the ground and fought again to keep faith with his heroes, to safeguard the country he loved and her causes, to be a better man, and to make a better world."

Earlier, as the hearse carrying McCain passed through a gate and into the academy, there was loud applause from the several hundred people lining the street outside on the hot and muggy summer day. Many held their hands over their hearts and waved American flags. Some shouted, "God bless you."

People in the crowd held signs that read "Senator John McCain Thanks For Serving! Godspeed" and "Rest In Peace Maverick."

For his final resting place, McCain picked the historic site overlooking the Severn River, not Arlington National Cemetery, where his father and grandfather, both admirals, were buried.

Years ago Chuck Larson, an admiral himself and an ally throughout McCain's life, reserved four plots at the cemetery — two for McCain and himself, and two for their wives, now widows. Larson died in 2014, and McCain wrote in a recent memoir that he wanted to be buried next to his friend, "near where it began."

Among the pallbearers on a list provided by McCain's office were Frank Gamboa, his academy roommate; Mattis; and two men who were POWs with McCain in Vietnam, John Fer and Everett Alvarez Jr.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman was pregnant; estranged husband sought in 3 killings

PHOENIX (AP)—A woman who was killed along with a male renter in her Phoenix home was pregnant, and the woman's estranged husband is sought on three murder charges and the possible abduction of their two sons, police said Sunday. U.S. and Mexico authorities were seeking Dimas Coronado, 47, on a murder warrant, and Amber Alerts were posted in both countries amid efforts to locate two boys the couple had together, Phoenix police Sgt. Armando Carbajal said. "We don't have enough information to know if he has the children or not," Carbajal said of the boys, 8-year-old Victor Coronado Nunez and 5-year-old Jonathan Coronado Nunez. Oralia Nunez, 24, and Omar Gonzalez, 34, died early Saturday of apparent gunshot injuries. Carbajal said Nunez was at least 7 months pregnant, and police have a warrant seeking Coronado on three murder charges. Police identified Coronado as a "person of interest" in the search for his sons.

A relative who found Nunez and Gonzalez mortally wounded and the boys missing said the children had been with their mother on Friday night. Coronado was believed to be driving an older model light green Ford pickup truck with a white camper shell and a Chihuahua, Mexico, license plate of ZUD-71-64, police said.

4 missing after boats collide, sink on Colorado River

MOABI REGIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)—The search continues for four people who went missing after two boats crashed and sunk on the Colorado River, ejecting more than a dozen people who were on board, authorities said. A recreational boat carrying 10 people and another vessel with six people on board collided head-on Saturday night on a well-traveled stretch of the river that marks the border between California and Arizona, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office said. Both boats sank, and passing boaters pulled crash victims from the water. Nine people were injured, with two in critical condition, authorities said. The crash occurred between two popular marinas and near Moabi Regional Park, a well-traveled recreation area crowded with people enjoying the Labor Day weekend. Three women and one man remained missing on Sunday, Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster said.

Lake Superior tragedy that left 4 dead spurs safety plea

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A kayak ride on Lake Superior that ended in the deaths of four Wisconsin family members would have been difficult even for experienced paddlers, officials say. Bob Krumenaker, superintendent of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis for a story published Sunday that it was a sobering reminder of the vastness and danger of the largest of the Great Lakes. The family from Loyal, Wisconsin, set out from Madeline Island in an open-top tandem kayak Thursday for a 4-mile (6-kilometer) paddle across open water to Michigan Island. But their 13½-foot (4-meter) kayak capsized after the wind picked up. Eric Fryman, 39, and his three children, Kyra, 9, Annaliese, 5, and Jansen, 3, were found dead in the frigid water. Only his wife, the children's mother, Cari Mews-Fryman, 29, survived. All of them wore life jackets. Coast Guard officials said hypothermia was probably a major factor in the deaths, especially of the children.

Asia

As #MeToo unnerves China, a student fights to tell her story

QINGDAO, China (AP)— The sight of five burly guards blocking her way out of her dorm filled Ren Liping with rage.

It was 3 a.m. on a recent Saturday (Aug. 4) and the thin, bespectacled 26-year-old Chinese graduate student was exhausted. Her mind raced back to earlier in the day when she had tried once again to publicly protest her alleged rape. Again, the police had stopped her and held her at a station for hours. Again, she was escorted back to campus.

Now this.

She pounded on the glass door with her fist, but the men ignored her. "This is illegal!" she shouted, to no response. She felt nauseous. Her face was numb. She picked up a bicycle pump in the corner and smashed it against the glass.

The door shattered.

"Whoever tries to suppress my case will end up like this door," Ren said to the men.

More than a year after she accused an ex-boyfriend of raping her on the China University of Petroleum campus in the coastal city of Qingdao, this had become Ren's life: a series of attempts to protest the university and authorities' mishandling of the case.

At every turn, Ren has been stymied by the school's guards or the police, who say there's no evidence of a crime. She was even detained in a hotel for six days at one point.

AP

In this July 3, 2018, photo, Ren Liping, second right, takes a subway train to the police headquarters to file her petition after arriving in Beijing.

Her efforts highlight at once the challenges of reporting sexual assault in China and the determination of a new generation of Chinese women pushing the country into its own #MeToo moment despite attempts to silence them.

The movement has gathered considerable steam in China, with dozens of men, including prominent media personalities, non-profit advocates and even a top monk, publicly accused of sexual assault or sexual misconduct in recent months.

But like any social campaign, #MeToo poses a challenge to President Xi Jinping's administration, which has waged an unprecedented crackdown on civil society groups and activism that the ruling Communist Party deems as threats to its rule.

Ren accuses Liang Shengyu, her ex-boyfriend, of raping her on campus last summer. Liang denies the allegation. They are suing each other for defamation.

In what legal experts say is unprecedented, Ren is also suing the police — for what she's described as a mishandling of the investigation and the use of force against her.

"She is a representative for the #MeToo movement," said Lyu Xiaoquan, a Beijing lawyer who helped Ren prepare her initial complaints.

Ren and Liang met in 2013 when they were undergraduates at the university's geosciences department. Liang says he was attracted to Ren's strength and independence. They dated for two years, experiencing for the first time the freedom of a romance far from their parents' scrutiny.

After a bitter breakup, Liang and Ren rarely spoke. But last summer they got back in touch, and on the evening of July 28, 2017, agreed to walk back to their dorms together after Liang completed an assignment in the lab.

Their accounts of the rest of the night diverge.

Ren said Liang asked her if they could get back together, but that she said no because she liked someone else. Liang then cornered her in a bicycle parking lot, she said, pinned her against a concrete wall and put his hand inside her denim shorts.

Stunned and terrified, Ren tried to choke him but wasn't strong enough.

"You're dirty," she told him.

"You've been with me before," he said, according to Ren. "You didn't think I was dirty then," she alleges he said.

Ren said Liang ignored her protests, pulled down her shorts and raped her. She was sobbing in pain, she said.

"Do you want to destroy me?" she cried at the time.

That's when he stopped, picked his cap up off the ground, and walked away, Ren said.

According to Liang, however, Ren had been pestering him for weeks because she thought he had a new girlfriend.

Liang said Ren tried to convince him to break up with this woman and that all they did that night was argue.

"We did not have any physical contact whatsoever that night," he said. "And there was no so-called rape or sexual assault or behavior of that kind."

Myanmar court sentences Reuters reporters to 7 years in jail

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)— A Myanmar court sentenced two Reuters journalists to seven years in prison Monday for illegal possession of official documents, a ruling met with international condemnation that will add to outrage over the military's human rights abuses against Rohingya Muslims.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had been reporting on the brutal crackdown on the Rohingya when they were arrested and charged with violating the colonial-era Official Secrets Act, punishable by up to 14 years in prison. They had pleaded not guilty, contending that they were framed by police.

"Today is a sad day for Myanmar, Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and the press everywhere," Stephen J. Adler, Reuters editor-in-chief, said in a statement. He said the charges were "designed to silence their reporting and intimidate the press."

The case has drawn worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under the civilian government of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, which took power in 2016. Though the military, which ruled the country for a half-century, maintains control of several key ministries, Suu Kyi's rise to government had raised hopes for an accelerated transition to full democracy and her stance on the Rohingya crisis has disappointed many former admirers.

As the verdict was announced in the hot Yangon courtroom, Kyaw Soe Oo's wife started crying, leaning into the lap of the person next to her. Outside the court, police and journalists shouted as the two Reuters reporters were led to a truck to be taken away.

"This is unfair," Wa Lone told the crowd. "I want to say they are obviously threatening our democracy and destroying freedom of the press in our country."

Kevin Krolicki, Reuters regional editor for Asia, said outside the court that it was "heartbreaking for friends and colleagues and family of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who in addition to the outrage many will feel, are deprived of their friends and colleagues, husband and father."

Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, both testified they suffered from harsh treatment during their initial interrogations after their arrests last December. Their several appeals for release on bail were rejected. Wa Lone's wife, Pan Ei Mon, gave birth to the couple's first child in Yangon on Aug. 10, but Wa Lone has not yet seen his daughter.

The two journalists had been reporting last year on the brutal crackdown by security forces on the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Some 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape the violence targeting them after attacks by Rohingya militants killed a dozen members of the security forces.

Duterte in Israel for first visit by a Philippines president

JERUSALEM (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has been accused of condoning human rights abuses in his deadly drug crackdown and who has made controversial comments about the Holocaust, received a warm welcome in Israel when he arrived Sunday for an official visit.

Before his departure from Manila, Duerte said he "looks forward to broader cooperation on a broad range of mutually important areas — defense and security, law enforcement, economic development, trade (and) investments and labor."

Sales of Israeli weapons to his government are high on the agenda, according to Israeli media. Filipino officials have said the Philippines has recently acquired Israeli-made arms such as Galil assault rifles and pistols for its 120,000-strong police force, which is on the front line of Duterte's battle against illegal drugs and other crimes.

His four-day visit begins with a Filipino community event Sunday evening. An estimated 28,000 Filipinos live in Israel, mostly as health aides.

A Filipino living in Israel, Lisa Levi, told Channel 10 TV that she is "excited" and "proud" he is visiting.

Speaking in Hebrew, she said "I wish I could hug him and thank him for everything he does."

She said her home country is safer now and that accusations of rights abuses are "untrue."

Duterte, who has made foul-mouthed attacks against former U.S. President Barack Obama and even God, will receive a warm welcome in the Holy Land meeting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other officials.

Duterte drew outrage in 2016 when he compared his anti-drug campaign to the Nazi genocide of Jews in World War II and said he would be "happy to slaughter" 3 million addicts. He later apologized.

He is scheduled to visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem on Monday and later a monument commemorating the Philippines' rescue of Jews during the Holocaust.

In contrast to the warm official welcome, Israeli human rights activists plan to protest the visit and have encouraged President Reuven Rivlin not to meet him over accusations of rights abuses at home.

Official Philippine police tallies place the number of suspects killed in police-led anti-drug raids at more than 4,500 since Duterte took office in June 2016.

International human rights watchdogs have cited far higher death tolls.

Duterte, a 73-year-old former government prosecutor, denies condoning extrajudicial killings but has openly and repeatedly threatened drug dealers with death.

World

Firefighters try to save relics as fire engulfs Rio museum

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A huge fire engulfed Brazil's 200-year-old National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, lighting up the night sky with towering flames as firefighters and museum workers raced to save historical relics from the blaze.

The esteemed museum, which houses artefacts from Egypt, Greco-Roman art and some of the first fossils found in Brazil, was closed to the public at the time of the fire, which broke out at 7:30 p.m. Sunday local time, it said in a statement.

There were no reports of injuries, the museum said, and it wasn't immediately clear how the fire began.

Roberto Robadey, a spokesman for the fire department, said 80 firefighters were battling the blaze and that by midnight local time it was "just about under control" and should be out within a few hours.

President Michel Temer called it "a sad day for all Brazilians."

"Two hundred years of work, investigation and knowledge have been lost," Temer said in a statement.

According to its website, the museum has a vast collection related to the history of Brazil and other countries, and that many of its collections came from members of Brazil's royal family.

Robadey said firefighters got off to a slow start fighting the blaze because the two fire hydrants closest to the museum were not functioning. Instead, trucks had to be sent to get water from a nearby lake.

But he added that some of the museum's pieces had been spared.

"We were able to remove a lot of things from inside with the help of workers of the museum," Robadey told Globo News.

Connected to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the museum has expositions that include anthropology, archaeology and paleontology, among others.

People watch as flames engulf the 200-year-old National Museum of Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018. AP

The vice director of the museum, Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte, told Globo news the museum suffered chronic underfunding.

"Everybody wants to be supportive now. We never had adequate support," he said.

Latin America's largest nation has struggled to emerge from its worst recession in decades. The state of Rio de Janeiro has been particularly hard hit in recent years thanks to a combination of falling world prices of oil, one of its major revenue sources, mismanagement and massive corruption.

Just over a month before national elections, even before the flames were put out, the fire was leading to recriminations about dilapidated infrastructure and budget deficits in the city that hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"Unfortunately, given the financial straits of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and all the other public universities the last three years, this was a tragedy that could be seen coming," Marina Silva, one of the leading presidential candidates, tweeted.

On Instagram, Rio Mayor Marcelo Crivella called on the country to rebuild.

"It's a national obligation to reconstruct it from the ashes, recompose every eternal detail of the paintings and photos. Even if they are not original, they continue to be a reminder of the royal family that gave us independence, the (Portuguese) empire and the first constitution and national unity," he said.

Elderly Peru couple buries son decades after disappearance

HUAMANGA, Peru (AP)—An octogenarian couple in Peru has received the skeletal remains of their son from authorities more than three decades after he was taken away by soldiers during the darkest days of the Andean nation's fight with Maoist rebels.

The return was part of a renewed effort by Peru to bring closure to families of the more than 20,000 people forcibly disappeared during the armed conflict.

Maximo Cueto and his wife Gregoria spent the better part of their savings and retirement from a prosperous business raising livestock in the southern Andes looking for their son, Cesareo, ever since he was forcibly taken from his university dormitory one night in 1984. Their search took them as far away as the Amazon rain forest and a former island penitentiary off the coast of Lima used for political prisoners in the 1980s.

Gregoria, 88, even composed a song in the native Quechua language to express the family's grief at not knowing the fate of their son.

"It was an obsession," said Elder Chipana, the couple's grandson and nephew of Cesareo.

Between 2008 and 2012, a team of forensic experts carried out thousands of excavations in a 7-hectare plot next to a military barrack in Huamanga that was the site of one of the most horrific crimes committed by the military in its bloody conflict with Shining Path rebels that terrorized much of the countryside in the 1980s and 1990s. There they found the remains of 109 individuals. Many of the bones were burned in a stove used by the military to dispose of bodies and hide any evidence of torture.

Twice before the family thought it had found Cesareo among the victims due to familiar-looking clothing that was found with the remains only to have DNA tests come back negative. Then, in July, they learned that a pile of bones with scrapes on the right knee and marks on the teeth indicating past dental work was their son, said archaeologist Luis Rueda, head of the team behind the excavations.

Authorities hope that in the future thousands of Peruvian families who have spent decades wondering about loved ones who disappeared during the conflict won't have to wait as long for closure. This month, for the first time, the remains of 14 people were turned over to loved ones under a new law that seeks to streamline the lengthy and burdensome process to identify those killed in the conflict.

Vatican begins push-back against ex-ambassador over Davis

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican is starting to push back against Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, author of the bombshell accusation of sex abuse cover-up against Pope Francis, with a statement Sunday from its former spokesman about a controversial 2015 meeting Vigano organized.

The Rev. Federico Lombardi and his English-language assistant, the Rev. Thomas Rosica, issued a joint statement disputing Vigano's claims about the encounter he organized with American anti-gay marriage campaigner, Kim Davis, during Francis' September 2015 visit to the United States.

News of the Davis audience made headlines at the time and was viewed by conservatives as a papal stamp of approval for Davis, the Kentucky clerk at the center of the U.S. gay marriage debate. The Vatican furiously sought to downplay it, with Lombardi saying the meeting by no means indicated papal support for Davis and insisting that the only private audience Francis held in Washington was with his former student: a gay man and his partner.

The Sept. 24, 2015 meeting and ensuing controversy has been cited as evidence of the frosty relations between Vigano and Francis that predated Vigano's remarkable denunciation of how Vatican officials starting in 2000 knew of sexual misconduct allegations against ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick but covered them up.

Vigano, whose Aug. 26 claims that Francis knew about McCarrick starting in 2013 have thrown the papacy into turmoil, issued a second statement Aug. 30 saying Francis knew well who Davis was, and that the Vatican hierarchy approved the meeting in advance.

He said he was nevertheless summoned to Rome urgently after news of the meeting was leaked but said the pope had nothing but praise for his efforts organizing the trip when the two met Oct. 9, 2015.

In the joint statement Sunday, Rosica transcribed what he said were handwritten notes from a meeting he and Lombardi had with Vigano the following evening. In those notes, Rosica quoted Vigano as telling them that the pope had actually chastised him for "deceiving" him with the Davis encounter, and for having withheld the fact that Davis had been married four times.

In his part of the joint statement, Lombardi said Vigano initiated the Davis meeting, should have known about the furor that it would cause, and that even though Vatican officials approved of it, they were not sufficiently informed about the significance such a meeting would take on.

The meeting has taken on new relevance following Vigano's allegations that he informed Francis of McCarrick's misconduct on June 23, 2013, but claimed Francis rehabilitated him from sanctions he said Pope Benedict XVI had imposed on him in 2009 or 2010.

There is no evidence those sanctions were ever enforced, since McCarrick lived a very public ministry in those years, travelling around the world for the church. Vigano said Francis should resign for what he said was his complicity in the nearly two-decade long cover-up of McCarrick's misconduct.

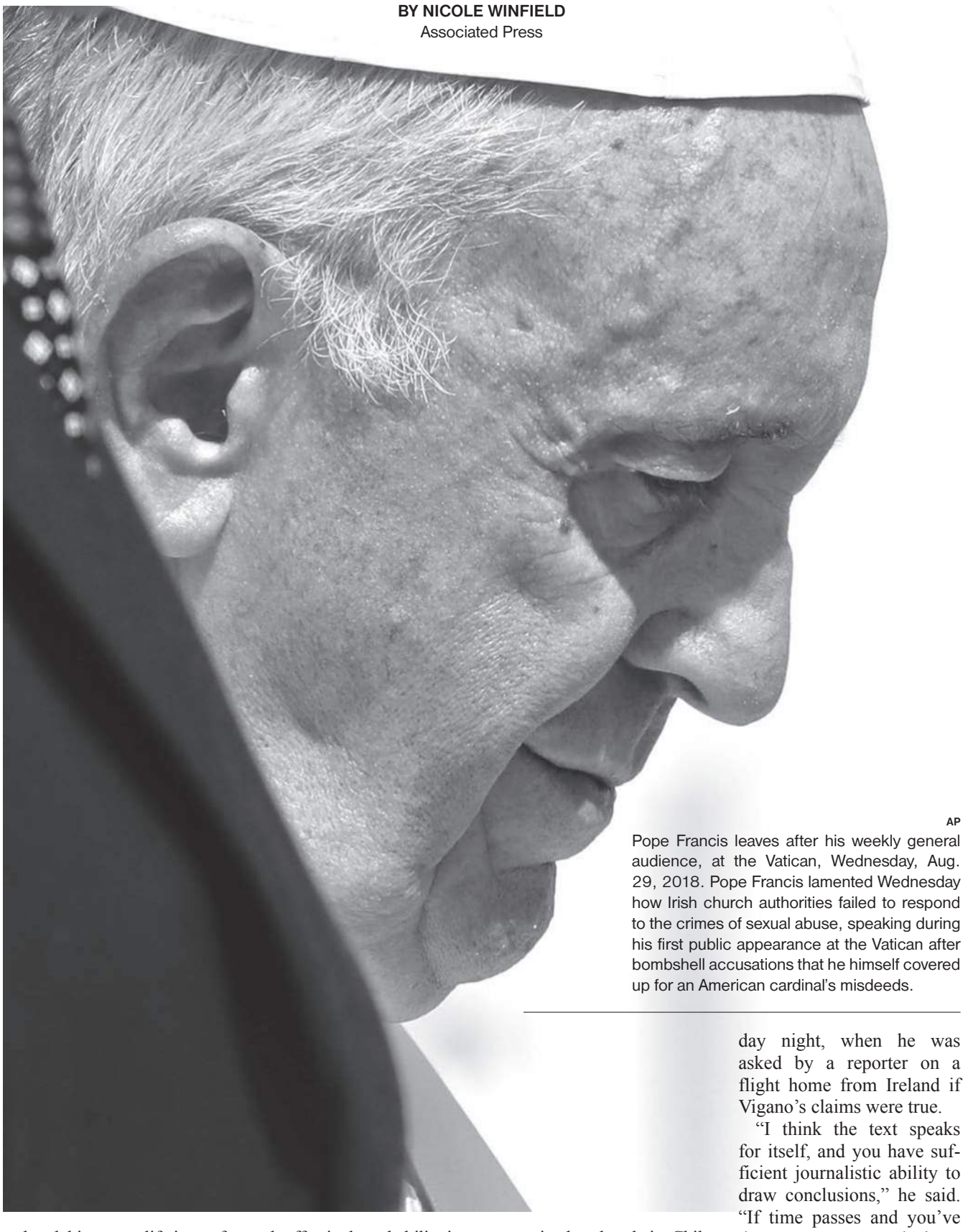
Francis removed McCarrick as cardinal in July after a U.S. investigation determined an allegation he groped a teen-ager in the 1970s was credible. Up until then, the only accusations known publicly against McCarrick were of misconduct with adults, an abuse of power but considered much less serious than sexually abusing a minor in the eyes of the church.

Rosica said no Holy See officials were involved in the drafting of the statement with Lombardi, but that he shared a copy of it with the Vatican secretary of state and foreign minister. The statement was issued, perhaps coincidentally, on the same day as the announcement that Lombardi would be resuming a more prominent communications role for the church by returning to work at the Jesuit journal, La Civilta Cattolica.

Focus

Pope's cover-up crisis turns battle lines into first salvo

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press



AP

Pope Francis leaves after his weekly general audience, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018. Pope Francis lamented Wednesday how Irish church authorities failed to respond to the crimes of sexual abuse, speaking during his first public appearance at the Vatican after bombshell accusations that he himself covered up for an American cardinal's misdeeds.

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The author of the bombshell accusation of sex abuse cover-up against Pope Francis denied Wednesday he acted out of revenge or anger, breaking his silence as his claims continued to divide a Catholic Church already polarized under Francis' reformist agenda.

While the Vatican is no stranger to scandal, leaks or plots, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano's j'accuse has weakened a papacy already under fire for Francis' poor record on dealing with sex abuse cases, and has intensified a long-simmering ideological battle between right and left for the soul of the Catholic Church.

Vigano told an Italian journalist he was "serene and at peace" after publishing his allegation-laden declaration, albeit saddened by subsequent attempts to undermine his credibility.

"I spoke out because by now the corruption has arrived at the top of the church hierarchy," Vigano was quoted as saying.

For the church's conservatives, Vigano's 11-page manifesto, published on Sunday, is a courageous denunciation of sex abuse cover-up and corruption. For Francis' reformist supporters, it's an angry diatribe from a homophobic bishop embittered that he never got the cardinal's red hat he so craved.

Both sides, however, agree Vigano's accusations require a response given that, as the former chief Vatican diplomat in the U.S., he was in a position to know certain information. Francis' decision to punt — "I won't say a word on this," he declared Sunday — hasn't helped his cause or satisfied the faithful.

"I do think this is a crisis in trust and authority that comes really close to the Lutheran Reformations in the early 16th century," said Christopher Bellitto, church historian at Kean University in New Jersey. "It's like a marriage: When trust is questioned you can go forward, but it's not the same."

In his letter Vigano accused a long list of U.S. and Vatican officials — including Popes Benedict XVI and Francis — of covering up for ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the retired archbishop of Washington, whose penchant for sleeping with seminarians was apparently an open secret in some church circles for over a decade.

Francis last month removed McCarrick as a cardinal and ordered him to a lifetime of penance and prayer after a U.S. church investigation determined that an allegation he groped a teen-age altar boy in the 1970s was credible.

Up until then, the only accusations against McCarrick had involved sleeping with adult seminarians — a clear abuse of power that was perhaps quietly tolerated in the pre-#MeToo era, but doesn't fly now.

Vigano said he informed Francis of McCarrick's history with seminarians at a meeting on June 23, 2013, and accused the pope of turning a blind eye and effectively rehabilitating McCarrick from the sanctions he claims Benedict had imposed in 2009 or 2010.

There is ample evidence, however, that any sanctions, if they existed, were never fully enforced since McCarrick travelled widely for the church in those years and participated in official church functions, including alongside Vigano, who was responsible for enforcing the sanctions.

Vigano insisted Francis must resign, given the explosion of the McCarrick scandal in the U.S. and a string of other gay sex abuse and cover-up cases in the church in Chile, Honduras and Australia that have implicated several of Francis' top advisers.

Massimo Franco, a columnist for Italy's leading daily, Corriere della Sera, said the silence from the Vatican is telling.

"I think that in this case, if these allegations were 'fake news,' I think someone would have spoken out on behalf of the pope," he told The Associated Press. "What is striking is the general silence."

The Vatican declined to comment Wednesday beyond Francis' remarks Sunday night, when he was asked by a reporter on a flight home from Ireland if Vigano's claims were true.

"I think the text speaks for itself, and you have sufficient journalistic ability to draw conclusions," he said. "If time passes and you've drawn your conclusions, maybe I'll speak."

For many Vatican watchers, the fallout since has laid bare the ideological tensions that have afflicted the church throughout its 2,000-year history, but which intensified under Francis — and exploded into the open this week.

The battle lines were drawn in 2016 when Francis issued his opening to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics. Later that year four cardinals formally asked him to explain if he was changing church teaching on marriage in a rare public rebuke. Vigano's manifesto marked the first direct shot.

Commentator Philip Lawler wrote in First Things, a conservative U.S. Catholic magazine, this week that while the prospect of "open warfare among bishops" is an enticing story line, the divisions are roiling rank-and-file Catholics who are "exhausted and enraged by the serial revelations of cover-ups and corruption" in the church.

Progressive church historian Alberto Melloni, however, wrote in Italy's left-leaning La Repubblica daily that Vigano's missive had "nothing to do with pedophilia" and everything to do with uniting various anti-Francis forces, from the traditionalists to the more moderate Catholic political right, for the sake of a future conclave to choose Francis' successor.

Bellitto, the historian at Kean University, said such machinations were nothing new.

"It's as old as Christianity itself," he said. "What we're in now is nothing other than a high-tech version of 'I'm more Christian than you are.'"

U.S. bishops, as well as ordinary Catholics, have called for an independent investigation to find out who knew about McCarrick's misdeeds and when, and expose how he was able to rise through the ranks. Vigano's bombshell allegations might complicate the request given that the pope is now personally involved.

That said, Vigano provided no evidence that Francis had lifted any sanctions, saying only that McCarrick emerged from a meeting with the pope in June 2013 and announced he was going to China. Such a trip would have been completely in keeping with McCarrick's rigorous travel schedule before 2013 when he was allegedly under Benedict's sanctions.

But Vigano said McCarrick had become a close adviser to Francis, who was seeking to appoint more pastorally minded bishops like himself to the U.S. church, which he believed had become too ideologically driven by right-wingers.

Franco, the Corriere della Sera columnist, said the McCarrick affair showed once again the danger posed by Francis' penchant for keeping friends with baggage like McCarrick and other compromised cardinals as advisers, rather than relying on official church channels for his information.

"I don't want to say it was a will to ignore or to undervalue," he said. "But it's a boomerang in the end."

Overdrive

The 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe is a comforting presence in a monotonous world

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PARK CITY, Utah—It seems unfair, but it's true: weekends fly, and weekdays walk. For the most part, life is a day-to-day drill of monotony punctuated by a few moments of pleasure. This explains why comfort and convenience, not high horsepower thrills, is what most motorists prefer — especially those with families.

With that in mind, if you're contemplating a new family sled, consider the new 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe, a redesigned two-row crossover formerly known as the Santa Fe Sport. (The former three-row Santa Fe is renamed the Santa Fe XL for 2019.)

Offered in ascending SE, SEL, SEL Plus, Limited and Ultimate trim levels, each Santa Fe with an increasing number of standard convenience features and few options.

The new model's styling trades the previous version's soft shapes for a more broad-shouldered, masculine appearance, more reminiscent of an SUV. Its face is particularly distinctive, with an aggressively textured trapezoid-shaped grille flanked by stacked headlamp clusters and capped by slim, horizontal daytime running lights and a chrome bar that's runs the width of the front that's stylish assertive.

The Santa Fe's overall footprint remains much like last year's Santa Fe Sport. All passengers enjoy chair high seats and good headroom, although the Santa Fe's roofline slopes down noticeably to meet the top of the windshield, lending the front row a more claustrophobic feel for taller passengers. Cargo room is generous, and there's a large under-floor storage space with a removable Styrofoam divider. Opening the automatic rear tailgate is as easy as standing near it with the key fob. No swinging your foot under the bumper, as in competing models. Thoughtfully, you can adjust the speed with which the tailgate opens, and how high it goes.

Ambience depends on trim level. Less expensive models feature attractively patterned cloth seats, while more expensive models feature leather trim and a more expressive headliner. The instrument panel features soft touch surfaces and stitched accents, although the door panels use hard, cheap plastics that look appropriate on cheaper models and out of place on pricier ones.

The Santa Fe comes standard with front-wheel drive and a 185-horsepower 2.4-liter double overhead-cam four-cylinder engine mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode. A 235-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder is optional on Limited or Ultimate models. All-wheel drive is optional.

The 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe. TNS

SE and SEL models wear 17-inch rubber, while SEL Plus, Limited and Ultimate trims get 18-inch or optional 19-inch footwear.

Most drivers will likely choose the 2.4-liter engine, which has adequate power if you live in a place where the only hills are landfills. Once facing an incline, this engine gets easily winded, forcing drivers to floor the throttle, which generates noise but not thrust. This makes the optional 2.0-liter four the ideal choice, providing enough power in any situation, especially when the vehicle is loaded with passengers and gear. Pop the drive mode selector into Sport mode and the Santa Fe becomes more responsive with either engine, although it has no affect on suspension. Better yet, popping the transmission into manual mode shows how expertly Hyundai engineered its gearbox. When climbing hills, the transmission holds its gear without automatically upshifting for fuel economy, unlike many competitors' models. That said, when teamed with the 2.4-liter engine, transmission behavior isn't as refined.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base prices:** $25,500-$38,800
- **Engine:** Turbocharged 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- **Horsepower:** 235
- **Torque:** 260 pound-feet

EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 19-22/21-25

- **Wheelbase:** 108.9 inches
- **Length:** 187.8 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 35.9-71.3 cubic feet
- **Curb weight:** 3,591-4,085 pounds

Nevertheless, the cabin is astonishingly quiet with either engine, although the base engine does emit a continual hum, due to the need for the engine to keep the revs up.

Handling is compliant and agile, although it's not sporty. Only the worst off-road bumps break through this car's comfort barrier. Nevertheless, you'll find Santa Fe SEL with its smaller engine and wheels favor comfort, and do not feel as refined, as sharp or as firm riding as the Ultimate, due mainly to better tires and transmission behavior. When cornering, body lean is evident, but minimal, and the Santa Fe's Lane Keeping Assist works to keep you in your lane. Unlike similar systems, it has a natural feel that doesn't feel intrusive or forced. Once accustomed to it, most drivers will appreciate its assistance.

Even though few owners will ever do it, the Santa Fe is fairly good once the sidewalk ends, thanks to its torque-vectoring all-wheel-drive system, which brakes the inside wheels in a corner to enhance handling. It makes sliding around in the wild fun.

And of course there is the usual pile of driver assistance features, including rear cross-traffic collision-avoidance assist, blind spot detection, forward collision-avoidance assist, high beam assist, lane keeping assist, driver attention warning, rear view monitor, and safe exit assist, which keeps the rear doors locked if the vehicle's radar detects cars approaching from the rear. An optional feature, Rear Occupant Alert, reminds drivers to check the rear seats when leaving the vehicle.

The infotainment system is commendably easy to use; Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard. The 12-speaker Infinity surround sound system provides good audio quality. However, there is no in-vehicle Wi-Fi hotspot.

Given what most of us face on a daily basis, the Santa Fe proves to be is a spacious crossover with an amazing amount of cargo space. It's an able assistant who is seen, not heard; a comforting, capable, compelling presence in a monotonous world.

Just be sure to spring for the more powerful engine. After all, don't you deserve more excitement in your life?

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

MOTORMOUTH

Automatic door unlocking bothers some car owners

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: I read your column every week religiously. This week the filler door comments prevailed, but one reader also mentioned "automatic door unlocking" when transmission placed in park. I also feel this is a grave personal safety issue. We have a 2017 Audi and a 2018 Audi and the feature cannot be turned off by the owner. Audi dealer refuses to assist even though they can correct this through OMB II. Perhaps you can address overcoming this safety issue as carjacking is a more relevant problem each day. Your doors should not unlock unless you want them to unlock.

— D.M., Northbrook, Ill.

A: Bless you for reading the column religiously. Maybe that's why it appears on so many Sunday papers. Whenever you place the gear selector in park, the doors unlock. But you can relock them by pressing the lock button. Then, you can exit through the driver's door without disturbing the other doors. If you are overly concerned, you could take the key fob with you as you exit and then lock all of the doors. By the way, we think you may be referring the OBD II (onboard diagnostic system, second generation).

Q: I have a 2010 Honda Odyssey LX with 100,000 miles. I have been trying to find general suggested intervals for transmission fluid changes and engine coolant changes. Many online owner club sites mention 30-40,000 miles for transmission fluid changes, but some say 60,000 or even 120,000 miles. Engine coolant suggestions vary even more. I've written to Honda, and Honda says just follow the maintenance minder in the car's onboard computer. However, I'd like a general idea of what intervals are expected just to plan out maintenance costs. These intervals are not mentioned in the owner's manual. In addition, our local dealer seems to have its own interval recommendations. Who am I to believe? Is there a document that spells out these and other recommended intervals that I can use as a starting point?

— E.B., Glenside, Pa.

A: Unfortunately, Honda does not spell out the maintenance schedules in the owner's manual. You are simply instructed to follow the alerts provided on your car's display. Take with a grain of salt what you see from online forums. There is plenty of misinformation that gets repeated from others' posts. Your Honda dealer should be the trusted source of information, but as you have discovered, some suggest services that Honda does not require. Trust the maintenance minder. You may also find the Car Care Council website (http://www.carcare.org/car-care-service-schedules/general-service-schedule/) helpful.

Q: I read the letter by D.V., Chicago in your column and am wondering if she doesn't own the same car I do. In April I bought a 2015 Accord Sport. I was made uneasy by automatic door unlocking as well. But a brief consultation with the owner's manual informed me that this was just one of several door lock configurations I could choose from. In addition to being able to choose when the doors unlocked (if at all), I could also choose at what point the doors locked (if at all). I hope this is of some help.

— R.M., McHenry, Ill.

A: Owner's manuals are worth consulting…unless you need maintenance schedules.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest.

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

6 receive Ramon Magsaysay Awards for accomplishments

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —Six people were honored Friday as this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, known as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, including a Cambodian genocide survivor who helped document the Khmer Rouge atrocities and an Indian psychiatrist who led the rescue of thousands of mentally ill street paupers.

The others who received the prize at a ceremony in Manila were a Filipino who led peace talks with communist insurgents, a polio-stricken Vietnamese who fought discrimination against the disabled, an East Timorese who built care centers for the poor amid civil strife and an Indian who tutored village students to help them pass exams.

The awards, which were announced last month, are named after a Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash.

"All this effort that I have been trying for so many decades is not in vain, it's been recognized," said Youk Chhang, who lost his father, five of his siblings and nearly 60 of his relatives during the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime and subsequent civil war in the 1970s. He escaped as a refugee to the United States before returning home to head a center that documented the horrific violence in aid of Cambodian war crimes trials.

AP

The 2018 Ramon Magsaysay awardees pose with Philippine Vice-president Leni Robredo, fourth from left, and Senen Bacani, Chair of the Board of Trustees, fifth from left, following awarding ceremony at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Friday, Aug. 31, 2018, in Manila, Philippines. The Magsaysay awards are Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize and were established in 1958 in honor of the country's President Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash. They are from left; Vo Thi Hoang Yen from Vietnam, Sonam Wangchuk from India, Bharat Vatwani also from India, Robredo, Bacani, Howard Dee from the Philippines, Maria Lourdes Martins Cruz from Timor Leste and Youk Chhang from Cambodia.

Youk Chhang said in an interview earlier this week that his recognition is also "a message to other institutions, to other countries around the world that learning from the past mistakes is significant, is important even though Cambodia has a long way to go."

The massive scope of his group's work included collecting more than a million documents, producing digital maps of more than 23,000 mass graves and excavating remains for forensic examination. Youk Chhang, 57, is currently involved in a project to develop a museum, archives and library and a graduate program on crimes against humanity.

In India, where an estimated 400,000 homeless people struggle with mental illness, psychiatrist Bharat Vatwani started a mission in 1988 that by now has rescued, treated and reintegrated into their families more than 7,000 of them.

Vatwani's "healing compassion" affirmed "the human dignity of even the most ostracized in our midst," the award foundation said.

"Nobody understands in India, or nobody understands in Asia, what exactly is the issue ... about mental illnesses," Vatwani said. "That drew us to the cause and that has kept us moving forward and forward."

Among the other recipients are Filipino businessman Howard Dee, who served as a government negotiator in peace talks with communist rebels in the 1990s, and Vietnamese Vo Thi Hoang Yen, who contracted polio when she was 2 years old and helped found a nonprofit group in 2005 that has helped about 15,000 people with disabilities get jobs. Her showcase project involved a motorcycle taxi service designed for the disabled.

Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz from East Timor was recognized for leading efforts to help the poor get access to health care, education, farming and livelihood in the midst of East Timor's tumultuous transition to independence in 2001.

Sonam Wangchuk, from the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, was lauded for fighting discrimination against minorities and founding a movement in 1988 that pursued educational reforms and helped tutor poor village students so they could pass exams.

Aretha Franklin, John McCain and the 1960s

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

"Hope I die before I get old," the Who sang at Woodstock as the 1960s hurtled to their end. Indeed, the decade and its echoes made premature legends of so many—Kennedy to King, Hendrix to Joplin to Morrison. They became emblems of an era, and the packaging of their virtues and vices has never really stopped.

But then there were those who didn't die, who did get old and emerged from that crucible and carried themselves through the arc of a life unabbreviated. They moved across decades and changes and navigated a culture that their younger selves would not have recognized.

That's the crossroads where both Aretha Franklin and John McCain stood—shaped by the decade that reshaped so much of American life but propelled into the 1970s and all the way to 2018, carrying some of the fundamental storylines of the 1960s as they progressed forward.

Think of the most dominant, most kinetic narratives of the 60s, the fiery combustion engines that drove the decade: From race, gender and music (Franklin) to war and politics (McCain), they are contained in the two figures to whom we bid farewell this week.

They exit the stage together in an American moment not unlike the period when each emerged. Fifty years after the cataclysmic year of 1968, today we are in a similar period of upheaval and polarization—a time when American society's foundational pillars are being questioned and people of all political persuasions are deeply angry and uncertain about the nation's path.

At a juncture like this, faced with this pair of memorials of a man and woman so very different and yet so uniquely representative of the American experience, what better time to stop and think about such figures, about what they meant and mean?

Sure, we're doing that. But are we doing it effectively?

In the past few days, the American packaging machine has pulled these two lives into slick renditions of who they actually were. Video montages, photo slide shows, memories and even the pleasingly compact monikers we throw around—the "Queen of Soul" and the "Maverick"—are sweet and nostalgic, yes. But they tend to reduce whole lifetimes to their clichéd sharpest edges: the most popular hit songs, the most pointed quotes, the most outsized moments.

The United States is often accused of being an ahistorical nation, and these fragmentary, Twitter-feed-like glimpses of entire lives make that assertion easier to prove. Sort of like we've come to view the 1960s themselves through the prism of reductive, Halloween-party buzzwords like "flower children," ''sit-in" and "Summer of Love."

"If there were ever a moment for us to talk and sit down and reflect about who we are, where we came from and where we're going, this weekend should give us that moment," says Ron Pitcock, assistant dean of the John V. Roach Honors College at Texas Christian University, who teaches about American cultural memory.

"We need to not compartmentalize these two people into these convenient narratives," he says. "We have two giants who waded through these muddy waters for us. If we settle for just making them an icon or giving them celebrity, then we've completely failed in this moment of reflection."

The places where those muddy waters flowed were sometimes even muddier. Since the 1960s, the country has only gotten more complicated and, many believe, even more fraught.

Trust in government sits near historic lows after beginning to plummet around the time that Franklin's voice started becoming a household sound and McCain was enduring his years in North Vietnamese custody. Music, delivered on vinyl discs for Franklin's first recordings, is now more typically served up in bits and bytes. And the stories of race and gender in America remain raw, ragged and aggressively unresolved.

What's illuminating about McCain and Franklin, in the context of the formative eras and experiences that produced them, is this: Each navigated historical currents—rode them, you might even argue—and each figured out how to remain relevant and impactful on their communities. Lives of high drama, yes, but staying power, too.

"Years matter. The people from the '60s who end up shaping America were often the ones that lasted. Ted Kennedy shaped America much more than John F. Kennedy," says John Baick, a historian at Western New England University.

"So many figures from the '60s are caricatures of themselves," he says. "Aretha Franklin and John McCain didn't talk about the good old days. They wanted to bring the past into the present. They were living reminders."

The very youngest Baby Boomers are in their mid-50s now—despite the exhortation to never trust anyone over 30—and more than half of today's Americans have no living memory of the 1960s. When personal experience ebbs, myth fills in the mortar between the bricks.

But those who were shaped by the decade continue to influence it, both alive and dead. Sales of Franklin's music on the day after her death increased by more than 1,500 percent, Billboard Magazine reported.

"Music changes, and I'm gonna change right along with it," Franklin once said—or, at least, is widely quoted as saying. The 1960s were a time of great and lurching change. Those who made it through often had to change again and again—continuously, even. She did. He did.

That might be the ultimate echo of that long-ago decade that Aretha Franklin and John McCain leave us with this week. Looking past all else, the main story of the 1960s was change—causing it, managing it, figuring out how to live with it.

We're still not anywhere near where we need to be with that, as American politics today so clearly demonstrate. In that respect, the lives of these two—and similar figures who survive them—hold clues still to be uncovered. Discuss.

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, writes frequently about American culture. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

Aretha's lack of a will could make things rocky for heirs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aretha Franklin was so hard-nosed in her business dealings that she demanded to be paid in cash before performing. Her heirs won't have it so simple.

Though she lived to 76 and was terminally ill with pancreatic cancer, the Queen of Soul died without a will.

As her four sons and other family members move on from Friday's funeral in Detroit, they're left with the potentially tall task of finding out how many millions she was worth, and divvying it up, a process that could take years and is likely to play out in public.

Estate law experts expressed surprise but not shock that a wealthy person like Franklin would put off making a will until it was too late. At least one of the singer's attorneys says he urged her repeatedly over the years to draft one.

"I tried to convince her that she should do not just a will but a trust while she was still alive," says Don Wilson, a Los Angeles lawyer who worked on entertainment matters for Franklin for nearly 30 years. "She never told me, 'No, I don't want to do one.' She understood the need. It just didn't seem to be something she got around to."

Laura Zwicker, an attorney who specializes in estate planning but is not affiliated with the Franklin estate, says she sees it happen all too often in her work.

"People don't like to face their own mortality," Zwicker says. "I had a client who had a $70 million real estate portfolio who had had end-stage diabetes. He had plenty of conversations with me about estate planning but would not sign the documents."

Papers filed in Michigan's Oakland County court last week by David J. Bennett, the lawyer who worked most closely with Franklin, lay out the few known basics:

She was not married and left four sons, ages 48 to 63: Clarence Franklin, Edward Franklin, Kecalf Franklin and Ted White Jr. Clarence, Aretha's eldest, is incapacitated and is represented by a guardian. And a niece of hers has accepted the role of executor.

Under Michigan law, as in most states, the sons will equally divide their mother's assets in the absence of a will, and so far no signs of conflict have emerged among family members. Bennett did not respond to phone and email messages seeking comment.

Aretha Franklin's friend Ron Moten, a Michigan businessman, gave the four sons some guidance in his speech at Friday's funeral.

"Remember your family, and friends that have been with you for years," Moten told the men. "Because you are about to meet a lot of people who will now want to be your new best friend. You will also meet some people that will have the best investments in the world for you. My advice? Go slow, be careful and be smart."

The documents make no mention of the value of Franklin's estate. The figure almost certainly runs into the tens of millions, but there will probably be widely varying estimates as her attorneys seek to downplay her wealth for tax purposes and the IRS tries to maximize the amount for its own reasons.

Franklin maintained ownership of the songs she wrote and did well by them, Wilson says, though of her major hits, "Think" is the only one that's her own composition. She also wrote some lesser hits, such as "Rock Steady."

Though her records were played millions of times, she earned little in radio royalties from smashes like 1967's "Respect" because such payments go overwhelmingly to the song's author, not the performer. In the case of "Respect," the royalties go to the estate of Otis Redding, even though the song owes nearly all its popularity to Franklin.

"I would imagine she probably felt she was entitled to more, but probably received more than a lot of artists from the time, especially African-American artists," Wilson says.

Among Franklin's more tangible assets are several pieces of property in the Detroit area that according to tax assessors' estimates are worth at least $2 million, with a market value that could easily be twice that.

Once the value is established—a process that could take years—the IRS will take any back taxes Franklin owed, then will tax her estate at 40 percent for any assets beyond $11.2 million.

Kenneth Abdo, an attorney who specializes in probate law and has worked on the estate of Prince, who also died without a will, says the IRS will conduct an audit of her holdings.

Wilson, her entertainment attorney, says she would not have wanted to see her finances publicly aired: "She was a private person."

As for why some clients don't make out a will, Zwicker said some heirs, like Franklin's son Clarence, may need more than others, and that can be a difficult and touchy decision for a parent.

"One arrangement may be fitting for one child, where other people need more help," Zwicker said. "To accept that and put it on paper can be hard for a parent."

'Crazy Rich Asians' banks another crazy rich weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Crazy Rich Asians" isn't slowing down at the box office even in its third weekend in theaters, and is helping to send a strong summer moviegoing season off on a high note.

Studios on Sunday say the romantic comedy has topped the domestic charts again. Warner Bros. estimates that the film added an additional $22.2 million through Sunday, down only 10 percent from last weekend. To date, the film has grossed nearly $111 million from North American theaters, passing the lifetime domestic total of 2015's "Trainwreck," one of the last big studio rom-com success stories.

Should the pace hold through Monday, "Crazy Rich Asians" could also have one of the biggest Labor Day weekends ever by the time final numbers are reported on Tuesday. The current four-day Labor Day record sits with 2007's "Halloween" which opened with $30.6 million and some are projecting that "Crazy Rich Asians" could hit $30 million.

It easily won out over the holdovers and a few newcomers, like the Nazi war crime film "Operation Finale" and the sci-fi thriller "Kin."

Warner Bros.' shark pic "The Meg" took second place with an additional $10.5 million, bringing its global total to $462.8 million. "Mission: Impossible—Fallout," in its fifth weekend, added $7 million for a third place finish.

"Operation Finale" landed in fourth place with $6 million. The film starring Oscar Isaac and Ben Kingsley tells the story of how Mossad agent Peter Malkin captured Adolf Eichmann.

And the John Cho-led computer screen mystery "Searching" performed better than expected in its expansion to 1,200 screens, bringing in an estimated $5.7 million through Sunday and rounding out the top five.

1. "**Crazy Rich Asians,**" $22.2 million ($10.4 million international).
2. "**The Meg**," $10.5 million ($17.7 million international).
3. "**Mission: Impossible—Fallout**," $7 million ($89.1 million international).
4. "**Operation Finale**," $6 million.
5. "**Searching**," $5.7 million ($5.9 million international).
6. "**Christopher Robin**," $5 million ($4.7 million international).
7. "**Alpha**," $4.5 million ($6.6 million international).
8. "**The Happytime Murders**," $4.4 million ($1.5 million international).
9. "**BlacKkKlansman**," $4.1 million ($4.8 million international).
10. "**Mile 22**," $3.6 million ($6 million international).

The sci-fi thriller "Kin," with Zoe Kravitz and Dennis Quaid, did not fare as well, and opened outside of the top 10 to only $3 million from over 2,100 theaters.

In limited release, Lionsgate and Pantelion's Spanish-language "Ya Veremos" opened to $1.8 million from 369 locations. And Focus Features' gothic thriller "The Little Stranger" launched on 474 screens to $420,000.

"Pretty much every summer ends with a whimper... that's very typical," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "But this is going to be a very strong Labor Day weekend."

The weekend closes out the fruitful 2018 summer movie season. Box office tracker comScore is projecting that the 2018 summer box office will net out with around $4.39 billion, up over 14 percent from last year when the summer didn't even hit $4 billion. Year to date, the box office is up 9.9 percent.

The success of "Crazy Rich Asians"' also propelled an especially lucrative August, up almost 30 percent from last year. But, Dergarabedian warns, September is likely to take a bit of a hit.

"We're going to see a downturn in the year-to-date advantage. Last year 'It' propelled a record-breaking September," he said. "I don't think there's anything of that magnitude this September."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

Animal-themed drinkware shows ancients partied in beast mode

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Centuries before Julius Caesar sipped from a chalice and Alexander the Great raised a goblet to toast his troops, the ancients drank from festive cups made in the image of the beings they revered the most: animals.

An unusual new exhibition at the Harvard Art Museums explores that primal connection between man, beast and libation.

"Animal-Shaped Vessels from the Ancient World: Feasting with Gods, Heroes, and Kings" opens Friday, offering a glimpse of six dozen elaborate drinking and pouring vessels—and, through them, a window into the weird symbolism early civilizations invoked whenever they partied.

Make no mistake: Our Bronze Age ancestors were well-acquainted with the concept of the liquid lunch, and they seem to have had one setting—beast mode.

"By illuminating the history and making of these remarkably global objects, we invite our guests to raise a glass to what unites us across culture and time," said Martha Tedeschi, the museum's director.

Visitors will journey deep into the Near East and Mediterranean past, where they'll be rewarded with priceless, rarely seen items culled from nearly two dozen museums across the U.S. and around the globe, including the British Museum, the Louvre, Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

In this Feb. 23, 2018, photo provided by the British Museum of London, a silver drinking horn featuring a mythological griffin and believed to date to the 5th or 4th century B.C. is depicted. AP

The oldest object: a terra cotta cup featuring a snarling lion from what is now known as Turkey, believed to date to the early 2000s B.C.

The youngest: an ornate drinking horn that Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gifted to President John F. Kennedy in September 1962 on the eve of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"It's fascinating how these animal-shaped vessels spread from culture to culture around the world. They were really quite fashionable," Susanne Ebbinghaus, the show's curator, said in an interview.

"I hope people will become more aware of the kinds of messages that are encoded in everyday objects, and the importance of social gatherings and getting together," said Ebbinghaus, who oversees Asian and Mediterranean art at the Harvard gallery. Even the word symposium , she notes, comes from the Greek for drinking party.

Archaeologists long have marveled at how much drinkware used in songs, speeches, prayers and other rituals has survived the ravages of time over three continents. Many were placed in tombs, which may explain why they endured, Ebbinghaus said.

The Harvard collection includes goblets and beakers shaped like standing or reclining animals; drinking horns and pitchers made in the images of bulls, rams, lions and wild boars; and cups and chalices featuring a mythological menagerie of griffins and dragons.

Fashioned from gold, silver, bronze, glass or animal horn, some of these vessels were status symbols seized as the spoils of war. Others were used as diplomatic gifts or to toast the dead as their spirits journeyed to the afterlife. Most span the Bronze Age of the third and second millennia before Christ to the rise of Islam in the 7th century A.D.

The vessels are displayed alongside texts, pottery and paintings that capture how humans feasted back in the day.

Paul McCartney talks of seeing God during psychedelic trip

LONDON (AP) — Former Beatle Paul McCartney has told a British newspaper he believes he once saw God during a psychedelic trip.

McCartney

The 76-year-old star told The Sunday Times he was "humbled" by the experience.

He said that "it was huge. A massive wall that I couldn't see the top of, and I was at the bottom. And anybody else would say it's just the drug, the hallucination, but we felt we had seen a higher thing."

The Beatles' music was heavily influenced by psychedelic drugs in the band's final years.

McCartney also spoke of allowing himself to believe that his lost loved ones, including his late wife Linda, are "looking down" on him.

The singer is promoting a new album and a tour. He remains one of music's most popular concert acts.

Abu Dhabi delays exhibition of da Vinci's 'Salvator Mundi'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Authorities in Abu Dhabi say the unveiling of Leonardo da Vinci's painting "Salvator Mundi" at the Louvre Abu Dhabi has been indefinitely postponed.

Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism tweeted Monday about the delay, saying "more details will be announced soon."

The department did not respond to a request for comment.

The Renaissance oil painting of Christ, whose title in Latin means "Savior of the World," sold for a record-breaking $450 million at an auction in New York at Christie's in November.

The painting depicts a blue-robed Jesus holding a crystal orb and gazing directly at the viewer.

It was to be displayed from Sept. 18.

You've come a long way, baby: Wigstock now star-studded

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris and his husband, chef and actor David Burtka, fired up what they call New York's "last summer blowout"—a six-hour, 50-act drag-queen spectacle staged Saturday on a glitzy Manhattan pier.

It was the revival of a 1980s festival called Wigstock—an impromptu creation of unruly patrons in drag who stumbled out of an East Village club at about 2 a.m. to improvise for homeless people in garbage-strewn, rat-infested Tompkins Square Park. It was, of course, free of charge.

Saturday's lower Manhattan show featured drag stars Lady Bunny, Bianca Del Rio and Latrice Royale. There were food, drinks and dancing on Pier 17 by the Brooklyn Bridge, with the audience wearing over-the-top attire for a shindig that kicked off with a cannon shooting out blue, orange and red wigs. Members of the crowd swarmed like bridesmaids angling for a bouquet.

Backstage, performers powdered their noses and ran through costume changes.

Tickets started at $95 and topped at $1,000 for the well-heeled at a VIP after-party with performers. A limited number of passes sold for $18.95.

The last time Robert Nieves was at Wigstock was in 1995, when he was 18. On Saturday, at 41, he came with his husband, Ramon Nieves, whom he dubbed a "Wigstock virgin."

"I wanted him to be able to experience it because this is such a monumental event for the community," said Robert Nieves, wearing a short red wig. "You know, last time I was here I didn't wear a wig."

With Tony, Emmy and Oscar award winners involved in the production, the drag culture has gone mainstream. And Wigstock has come a long way from the wee hours one night in 1984 when Lady Bunny led the inebriated charge into the park.

"In those days, drag used to be very gritty and dirty, with real shock value and people saying, 'I can't believe I'm laughing at this sick club comedy,'" says Burtka. "The first Wigstock ended up being a party—the last summer blowout."

The annual celebration eventually moved to a pier on Manhattan's West Side until it was rained out two years in a row, dampening ticket revenue and bankrupting the event by 2001. A much smaller Wigstock popped up sporadically in the park and on New York Harbor cruises but, short of money, it pretty much vanished until now.

"David and I are rabid fans of any kind of live spectacle, and we go to drag shows," says Harris. "So one day, I said to David, 'Why don't we revive Wigstock?'"

Though he didn't know her well, says Burtka, "I ended up calling Bunny and saying, 'Hey, would you be into doing this?'"

The Wigstock founder sure was, starting Saturday at 3 p.m., rain or shine, on the rooftop of Manhattan's freshly renovated Pier 17.

Working on the revival with her as executive producer were Harris, Burtka, Jack Turner, Jason Weinberg and Oscar award-winner Bruce Cohen, along with production company Matador Content and Pride Media, which publishes Out and Advocate magazines. Broadway's Tony Award-winner Michael Mayer was director.

The main creative credit goes to Lady Bunny, whose legal name is Jon Ingle, a 56-year-old DJ and promoter with a Tennessee drawl in a foot-high wig. "Everything runs through her. Bunny's the backbone, she's the driving force, she's our almanac," says Burtka.

Performers included Harris, who won a Tony for the 2014 Broadway revival of the cult musical "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," about a transgender, East European rock singer. He re-created part of that glam-rock performance on Saturday.

Harris and Burtka noted that drag culture has gone from an underground fringe phenomenon to front-and-center pop culture, with RuPaul hosting the Emmy award-winning "RuPaul's Drag Race" competition featuring musical challengers in wigs and heels.

U2 reschedules Berlin concert after Bono loses voice

BERLIN (AP)—U2 lead singer Bono is reassuring fans that he'll have his voice back for the rest of U2's European tour after ending a concert in Germany Saturday night, which they are rescheduling.

In a statement posted Sunday to U2's website, Bono says that a doctor has ruled out anything serious related to his loss of voice during the performance in Berlin. He says his relief is tempered by the knowledge that he Berlin audience was inconvenienced, adding that he can't wait to get back there on Nov. 13 for a rescheduled show.

Bono suffered a "complete loss of voice" at the band's Saturday night show at Berlin's Mercedes-Benz Arena, causing the engagement to end early. The 58-year-old frontman made it through the U2 hit "Beautiful Day" with the help of the audience, German news agency dpa reported Sunday.

Concertgoers first were told there would be a short break and eventually were informed the show was over, dpa said. They were advised to keep their tickets for a replacement performance.

U2 opened the European segment of its 2018 "Experience + Innocence" tour in Berlin on Friday. It has a sold-out show scheduled in Cologne on Tuesday and a second concert in the German city on Wednesday before back-to-back performances in Paris on Saturday and Sunday.

A note on U2's website said ticketholders should expect more information from Live Nation regarding the rescheduled Berlin show on Monday.

AP

In this Monday, July 24, 2017 file photo, U2 singer Bono makes a peace sign as he arrives for a meeting at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, France.

Options abound for retiree's wife to jon his exploration

DEAR ABBY: The wife of "Headed for the Open Road" (June 25) will never forgive herself if she doesn't accompany her newly retired husband on his open-road adventures. After working for 40 years and retiring from my third job, my life partner and I went everywhere and did everything together. Three and a half months after my retirement, he passed away suddenly.

I would never have forgiven myself if I hadn't experienced our frozen Jeep in Yellowstone or the eerie silence on the edge of the Hoh Rain Forest in western Washington state. That wife needs to get off her duff and have the adventures of a lifetime -- unless, of course, she doesn't want to get closer to her husband. That would be a shame.

RICK T. IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RICK: Thanks for writing and sharing your experiences. Many other passionate travelers responded, offering guidance to "Headed" in making his dreams of adventure a reality. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Maybe the problem is the idea of a road trip, not the notion of travel. Perhaps he should suggest they go on a cruise or vacation in a nice resort somewhere. She might warm up more to travel if it sounded like a vacation rather than a long drive. And cruises are great—no daily packing/unpacking, opportunities to "dress up" (if you want), dancing, nightly entertainment, moonlit walks, not to mention days in exotic ports around the world. By the way, my husband and I—retirees in our 70s—have just returned from a five-week road trip in France. Far more appealing than seeing Mt. Rushmore again!

TRAVELER, WITH A CAPITAL "T"

DEAR ABBY: The husband could rent an RV to travel. His wife doesn't want to be cooped up, and an RV would have a living room, couch, TV/DVD, an onboard toilet, separate bedroom and a small kitchen. In other words, it would be like she's still at home, only moving. The couple could even arrange other transportation at their destinations.

TOM Z. IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were married 10 years when we discussed the destinations on our travel bucket lists. Mine included a road trip to Utah to see the canyons; he wanted a cruise to the war memorials in Hawaii. Neither of us was interested in the other's trip, so he took his adult daughter on the cruise, and three girlfriends and I took the road trip. We both had wonderful times, took tons of photos to share, and came back with lots to talk about. My motto is, don't put off something you really want to do.

CLAIRE G. OUT WEST

DEAR ABBY: Maybe they could take shorter trips if her objection is the car travel. Or they could fly to a destination, rent a car and see the sights. They could even take a train trip across the country. That wife should be grateful they are both physically able to travel and spend precious time together.

WISH I COULD IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: My oldest grandson was my traveling companion. When he was 5, we took a long bus trip, and the other times I drove. He was a better traveler than I was. We had marvelous adventures and built wonderful memories. These usually were trips from California to Montana, North Dakota or Minnesota to visit other family members, but we were flexible with our time and would take side jaunts when we came upon a site that looked interesting. Perhaps "Headed" could do this on a rotating basis with his grandchildren.

KAY F. BEHIND THE WHEEL

DEAR ABBY: As a minister, I have advised women like "Headed's" wife. I said, "Eventually one of you will get sick. If it's him, you may spend years caring for him, regretting that you never took the trip. And if you're the one whose health fails, he will put you in a nursing home and take the trip!" Most of them relented, took the trip and enjoyed it. One couple lived another 15 years and told me repeatedly they appreciated my advice.

REV. JIM IN PHOENIX

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

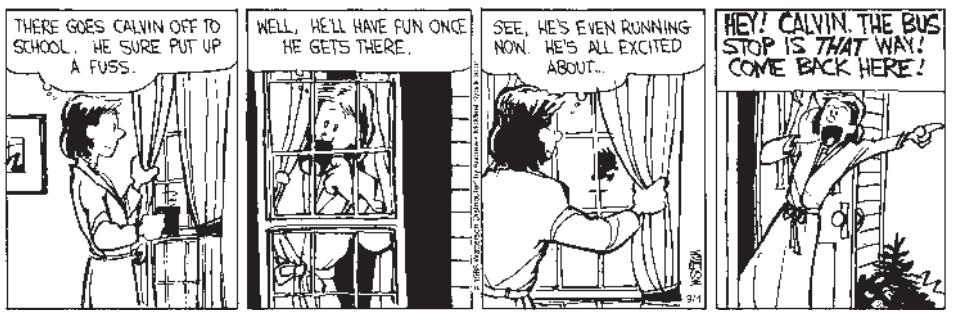
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THERE GOES CALVIN OFF TO SCHOOL. HE SURE PUT UP A FUSS.
WELL, HE'LL HAVE FUN ONCE HE GETS THERE.
SEE, HE'S EVEN RUNNING NOW. HE'S ALL EXCITED ABOUT...
HEY! CALVIN. THE BUS STOP IS THAT WAY! COME BACK HERE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHY COULDN'T YOU SLEEP?
NO IDEA.
TOO MUCH COFFEE?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING.
SOMETHING YOU ATE?
I DON'T THINK SO.
TOO MANY NAPS?
THEY'RE CALLED "POWER SIESTAS" AND I ONLY TOOK TWO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW'S THAT NEW FLEA POWDER WORKING OUT?
IT STOPPED THE ITCHING, BUT NOW I CAN'T SLEEP.
HOW COME?
NOW THOSE LITTLE BUGGERS ARE UP ALL NIGHT COUGHING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

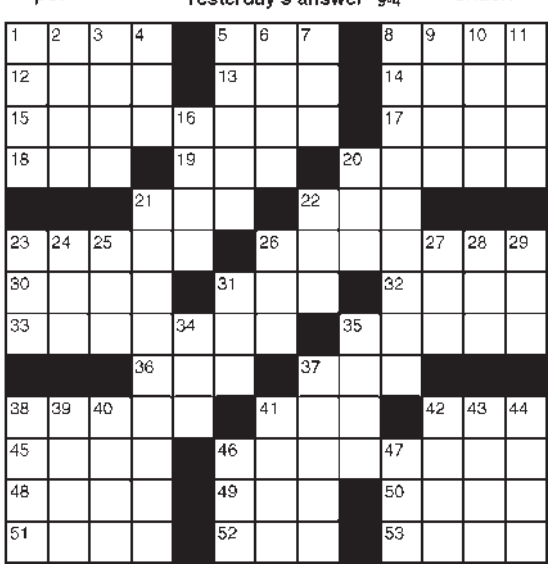
ACROSS
1 Spill the beans
5 Corp execs
8 Price
12 Unctuous
13 Odometer start
14 Sea predator
15 Flower parts rich in Vitamin C
17 500 sheets
18 Rock's Brian
19 World Cup cheer
20 Garden dwarf
21 Earl Grey, for one
22 Pen name
23 Ravi's instrument
26 Raw fish dish
30 "American —"
31 Pot-bellied pet
32 One-named supermodel
33 Icon lineup
35 Frighten
36 Drunkard
37 Existed
38 Overly aggressive
41 Back talk
42 Service charge
45 Con
46 Prays
48 Dance move
49 Candle count
50 Exploits
51 Brady and Hanks
52 Deleted, with "out"
53 Biblical pronoun

DOWN
1 Drill
2 King of the jungle
3 To boot
4 "See ya!"
5 Kin of "Presto!"
6 Vatican VIP
7 "Mayday!"
8 Crunchy party snacks
9 Popular cookie
10 Con job
11 Docile
16 Farmer, at times
20 USO patrons
21 Vessels with high masts
22 Satchel
23 Perch
24 Wedding words
25 Overly
26 — Lancelot
27 "As I see it," to a texter
28 Chairman of China
29 Squid squirt
31 Bit of butter
34 Lad
35 Easy targets
37 Overcaffeinated
38 Bygone days
39 Golden rule word
40 Goblet feature
41 Theater box
42 Go angling
43 Duel tool
44 Being, to Brutus
46 Letter sealer
47 Grass shack

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	L	M	■	■	I	R	S	■	E	E	D	■
D	E	A	F	■	C	O	O	■	A	X	I	S
I	N	C	A	■	I	O	U	■	I	■	E	M
E	T	H	I	C	■	M	A	N	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	C	O	■	B	I	T	■	E	R
■	A	S	T	I	N	G	■	A	B	O	V	E
U	T	A	H	■	E	A	■	■	A	I	L	■
■	A	G	F	A	■	P	R	O	L	■	I	Y
U	N	S	A	I	D	■	U	P	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	A	R	E	■	T	H	■	N	K
J	O	L	T	■	I	V	S	■	■	O	N	■
O	D	I	E	■	V	E	■	■	S	A	G	E
B	E	N	D	■	E	S	C	■	■	L	O	W

Yesterday's answer 9-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Whitney Cummings, 36; Beyonce Knowles, 37; Wes Bentley, 40; Drew Pinsky, 60.

Happy Birthday: It's time to bring about the changes you've been contemplating the past couple of years. You are heading into a growth period that leads to greater opportunities. How you handle what's available will make a difference to the outcome. Feeling comfortable in your skin will help build confidence and give you the oomph you need to follow your dreams. Your numbers are 2, 5, 17, 26, 33, 39, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look past pettiness and you'll find a way to work alongside others, regardless of your differences. Personal changes will give you a sense of what's possible and the best route to take in order to achieve your goals. Personal improvement is featured. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Show others how serious you are about getting things done. Stop talking and start producing. What you accomplish will speak volumes about the type of person you are and what you are capable of doing. Help children and seniors. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Change your mind if necessary. Admitting when you are wrong and turning a negative into a positive will help you gain respect and the confidence of those you love and work alongside. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be secretive about the personal changes you want to make. Tidy up loose ends and rethink your strategy regarding how best to use your skills in order to get ahead. Discipline will be required to reach your ultimate goal. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Focus on your appearance and the domestic environment you live in. You'll feel better about yourself if you're organized and have a plan in the works that will lead to a better future. Don't let someone from your past disrupt your life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate and you'll be offered valuable information that will change your life. Listen and take note of what someone has done, and revamp his or her idea to fit your situation. Reconnecting with someone from your past is favored. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotional matters will escalate when dealing with the people you live with or who influence your everyday routine. Choose your battles wisely, and use diplomacy to skirt issues that are sensitive. Look inward and make personal adjustments. ✪✪**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* How you earn your living will undergo a shift. Look for any opportunity to use your skills in exciting new ways. Attend a conference, trade show or networking function that will spark ideas and lead to potential partnerships. Embrace change. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Speak up on behalf of yourself as well as others. Your strength and courage will put you in a leadership position that will give you the power to make a difference. Stick to the truth and point out those prone to exaggeration. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Speak from the heart regarding your plans with a partner or someone you feel can assist you. A moneymaking deal is within reach if you nudge the person vacillating. Set the standard and show your strength. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't participate in someone else's shenanigans. Know when to say no and how to persuade those running amok to smarten up before it's too late to turn back. Make your voice heard, and do what's best for yourself. Romance can alter someone's choices. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make changes at home or to your personal finances. Renovation, buying and selling or investing in something you've wanted for some time is favored. The right decision will stabilize your life and help you build a brighter future. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intriguing, creative and ambitious. You are determined and opportunistic. *To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		6		7		1	
			1		8			
5								8
6	1			3			2	9
			2		1			
7	3			8			4	1
4								5
			5		2			
	9		8		6		7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	5	3	4	2	1	8	6	9
9	4	6	5	7	8	3	1	2
1	8	2	3	6	9	7	5	4
4	1	8	7	3	5	2	9	6
6	3	7	9	1	2	4	8	5
2	9	5	8	4	6	1	7	3
8	2	1	6	9	3	5	4	7
5	6	4	2	8	7	9	3	1
3	7	9	1	5	4	6	2	8

Difficulty Lvl. ★ 9/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TYPES OF ONIONS Solution: 6 letters

Y	C	N	E	E	R	G	O	S	T	O	R	A	G	E
B	R	I	M	P	D	L	N	Y	P	N	O	R	A	B
A	E	U	R	U	A	E	L	I	E	Ⓡ	Ⓔ	Ⓓ	O	A
B	O	A	A	F	L	E	H	B	L	L	I	I	Y	T
E	L	M	F	F	A	R	U	S	R	K	L	N	S	O
B	E	U	T	E	S	T	E	J	L	I	C	O	G	L
R	B	I	B	E	T	I	H	W	N	E	S	I	W	L
U	U	L	I	O	B	S	N	G	N	I	W	L	P	A
N	C	L	N	N	M	U	O	I	K	E	E	L	A	H
S	P	A	P	A	C	K	L	T	L	R	E	A	I	S
W	A	L	L	A	W	A	L	L	A	L	T	C	L	E
I	R	L	A	I	R	E	P	M	I	T	O	S	A	V
C	A	H	S	I	N	A	P	S	S	D	O	P	D	I
K	D	A	N	V	E	R	S	L	R	A	E	P	I	H
G	E	O	R	G	I	A	C	A	L	C	O	T	V	C

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Allium, Baby, Baron, Boiling, Brunswick, Buffalo, Bulb, Bull, Button, Calcot, Chives, Cipollini, Creole, Cube, Danvers, Farm, Georgia, Green, Imperial, Inca, Jetset, Leek, Maui, Pack, Parade, Pearl, Pickling, Pods, Potato, Puff, Ramp, Red, Salad, Scallion, Shallot, Small, Spanish, Spring, Storage, Sweet, Tree, Vidalia, Walla Walla, Welsh, White, Wing, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Leather

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ITB NO.: ITB18-DCCA/HPO-140

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 • TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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/S/ GORDON SALAS
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

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ITB NO.: ITB18-DCCA/HPO-141

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ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Margarita Vallo)
Petitioner) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0321
-vs-)
Chong Shin Kim) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
Respondent)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 151 Box 10002, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of August, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 09-2018

Opening date: **August 15, 2018**
Closing date: September 14, 2018

Positions: (2) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, September 14, 2018.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or cpa.boardsec@pticom.com by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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Serena, Nadal march into quarterfinals

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams' yells of "Come on!" crescendoed right along with the tension in a fourth-round U.S. Open match that began as a rout and suddenly became riveting.

When she ripped a backhand winner to claim the third set's opening game Sunday, Williams let out her loudest shout of the day, leaning forward and rocking both arms. This turned into a test, and she passed it.

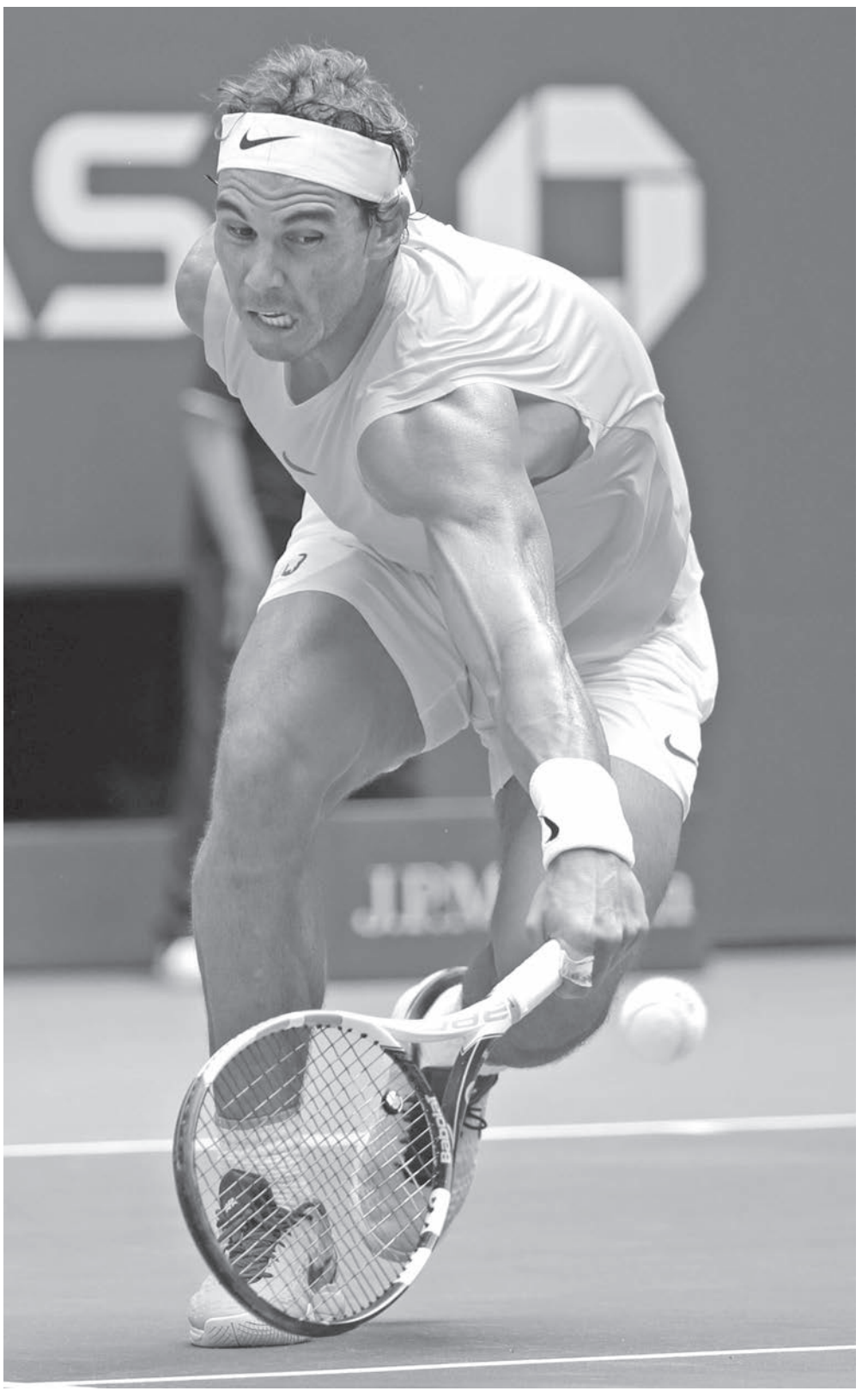
Williams reached the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows for a 10th consecutive appearance—she wasn't there last year because she gave birth to her daughter during the tournament—by picking her level up after a lull and using 18 aces to beat Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

"It was a 'Serena scream.' I don't try to do it. It just comes out, and it's just emotions," said Williams, a six-time U.S. Open champion who finished with more than twice as many winners as Kanepi, 47-22.

"This is my job and this is what I do. This is how I earn a living. I'm going to do it the best I can," she added. "Winning a big game and a very important game and a really tight game, I think it was just a relief."

This match was filled with big hitting by both women, along with all manner of shifts in momentum and quality of play. In the 18-minute shutout of the first set, Kanepi's strokes were off and Williams' were pretty much perfect as she grabbed 24 of 30 points.

But after compiling 14 winners and only two unforced errors in that set, Williams began making mistakes, becoming less and less comfortable as Kanepi grew increasingly so. Kanepi is ranked only 44th, but she's been a top-20 player in the past and has made it to Grand Slam quarterfinals a half-dozen times. Sure, that's nothing compared to Williams' 23 major titles, but it's something. Plus, it's worth remembering this: Kanepi eliminated No. 1 Simona Halep on Day 1 of this tournament.



AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a shot to Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018, in New York.

In a blink, Williams had a match on her hands. Kanepi was matching Williams' power with booming groundstrokes of her own. She was getting better reads on Williams' serves. And Williams began making more and more mistakes.

When Williams shanked a backhand return of a 103 mph serve, the match was a little more than an hour old, and it was all tied at a set apiece. That was the first set she had lost against Kanepi of the 10 they'd played to that point, and the first set Williams had lost at the 2018 U.S. Open, a run that included a 6-1, 6-2 victory over her older sister Venus in the third round Friday night.

After that scream-inspiring hold to begin the final set, Williams broke right away to lead 2-0. She then faced a break point, but Kanepi wasted that chance by sending a backhand wide. From there, Williams smacked an ace at 118 mph, followed by a service winner at 113 mph to go up 3-0, and that essentially was that.

Kanepi's take on Wiliams' serve? "Unreturnable," she called it.

Next for the 36-year-old American comes a quarterfinal against 2016 runner-up Karolina Pliskova, who beat Williams in the U.S. Open semifinals that year.

The defending men's champion Rafael Nadal reached his fourth Grand Slam quarterfinal of the season, and 36th of his career, by getting past Nikoloz Basilashvili, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-4, while No. 11 John Isner of the U.S. made it that far at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2011. Isner defeated No. 25 Milos Raonic of Canada, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 and now faces 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro who pounded 18 forehand winners in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 victory over No. 20 Borna Coric and hasn't dropped a set through four matches.

Nadal has been spending a lot more time on court, going four sets in each of his past two outings.

Federer vs Djokovic

Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic have only a pair of unseeded opponents between themselves and a highly anticipated quarterfinal showdown at Flushing Meadows. Federer, the No. 2 seed, faces 55th-ranked John Millman, while Djokovic, the No. 6 seed, takes on 68th-ranked Joao Sousa.

Neither Millman nor Sousa ever has reached the final eight at any Grand Slam tournament.

"He's got an aura about him. Definitely a player I've looked up to throughout my career. But it's like anything. I have never been a fan of playing anyone's reputation. When you go out on court, I think it's about engaging in a battle. I definitely won't be thinking about those things if I play against him," Millman said about facing Federer. "I want to start off at zero-all and not already being behind the 8-ball and playing someone's reputation. If you do that, I think you can get bogged down and you're in a bit of trouble."

Those two matches will be in Arthur Ashe Stadium, as will 2006 champion Maria Sharapova vs. No. 30 Carla Suarez Navarro, and 2017 runner-up Madison Keys vs. No. 29 Dominika Cibulkova.

Ancer leads; DeChambeau gets Tiger's vote

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Abraham Ancer of Mexico learned the hard way that a game that got him to the PGA Tour was good enough to win.

A Labor Day finish on the TPC Boston will be his biggest test.

Ancer opened with three straight birdies, had a birdie chance on all but one hole and shot a 6-under 65 that gave him a one-shot lead going into the final round of the Dell Technologies Championship that could change his career.

He showed up at the second FedEx Cup playoff event at No. 92 in the standings, hopeful of getting into the top 70 to keep his season going. A victory would send him to East Lake for the Tour Championship and give him a spot in all four majors.

But one look at the leaderboard is enough to suggest that 18 holes is a long way off.

Right behind is a player who had the lowest score before the largest gallery at the TPC Boston. That would be Bryson DeChambeau, who played with Tiger Woods for the first time in competition.

Woods backed DeChambeau as a US Ryder Cup captain's choice on Sunday after watching his playing partner fire an eight-under 63.

Woods, a 14-time major champion, and DeChambeau, coming off this third career PGA title at last week's Northern Trust event, are each expected to receive "wildcard" picks from US captain Jim Furyk on Tuesday.

DeChambeau, who turns 25 on September 16, didn't hurt his chances with a stunning Saturday effort with Woods, set for an assistant captain's role but potentially a Cup playing partner, watching every shot.

Tyrrell Hatton had a shot bounce off a cart and into the woods, never to be found, leading to double bogey. He still managed a 69 and joined DeChambeau one off the lead. They were among 10 players within four shots of the lead, a group that includes major champions Justin Rose, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth.

"I just know to win I've got to play good," Ancer said. "There's no way if you play sloppy you're going to win out here. So I know I have to put up a good score out there tomorrow. And I know if I follow my game plan and make some putts, that could happen."

He was at 13-under 200.

Woods had to settle for a 69 that left him in a tie for 16th, six shots behind. At least he saw plenty of good golf. DeChambeau has become of his regular practice partners, though they had never been in the same group until Sunday.

DeChambeau opened with two birdies and finished even stronger, with short birdie putts on the 16th and 17th, and then a 5-iron from 237 yards that stopped rolling 2 feet from the hole for an eagle.

"He's my childhood idol," DeChambeau said. "I've admired him my whole entire life. And to be finally able to play with him under tournament conditions, it was different. I was a little nervous, for sure. But I was able to get out there and execute shots and worry about my game and focus on hitting the best shots possible. And I was able to play really well like that."

Not since Vijay Singh in 2008 has anyone captured the opening two FedEx Cup. DeChambeau led by four shots at Ridgewood Country Club last week and never was seriously challenged. This time, the 24-year-old Californian will have to come from one shot behind against a 27-year-old playing in only his 49th PGA Tour event.

Hatton had the lead until his approach on the par-4 12th went off a cart path and into the trees, and a search party of some three dozen fans and volunteers never found it. He did well to escape with a double bogey, and then finished with a birdie for a 69.

Justin Rose (70) and Cameron Smith (67) were another shot behind, followed by Emiliano Grillo (64) and Kyle Stanley (66).

McIlroy was making a charge until hitting into the water on the 16th hole and missing a short putt at the 18th. HE had to settle for a 68 and was in a group at 9-under 204 that included Beau Hossler (68), Ryder Cup hopeful Tony Finau (67) and Spieth (68).

Dodgers defeat Diamondbacks, take lead

LOS ANGELES (AP)— This was one rerun Dodgers fans were happy to watch again.

Matt Kemp beat the Diamondbacks for the second straight game, hitting a two-run double in the ninth inning that lifted Los Angeles over Arizona 3-2 Sunday for sole possession of first place in the NL West.

A day after Kemp launched a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth against Archie Bradley, the Dodgers slugger tagged him again on the first pitch to break a tie for the division lead.

"When I was walking up to the plate they showed what I did last night," Kemp said. "He threw a fastball that was pretty much in and I got the barrel on it and made something happen."

Kemp chucked his helmet in the air rounding second base and his teammates chased him down for a wild celebration along the third-base line.

"I'm a little upset right now," Bradley said.

Bradley also a message for Arizona rooters: "To our fans, don't panic. It's only one loss."

But a costly one. The D-backs dropped a game back of the Dodgers and Rockies. The Dodgers were 4 1/2 games out of first after a loss on Aug. 22, but have gone 8-1 in their last nine games to regain the division lead for the first time since Aug. 7.

"Just grinding, not panicking," Kemp said.

The Dodgers beat the Diamondbacks by identical 3-2 scores three days in a row, after Arizona won the series opener at Dodger Stadium.

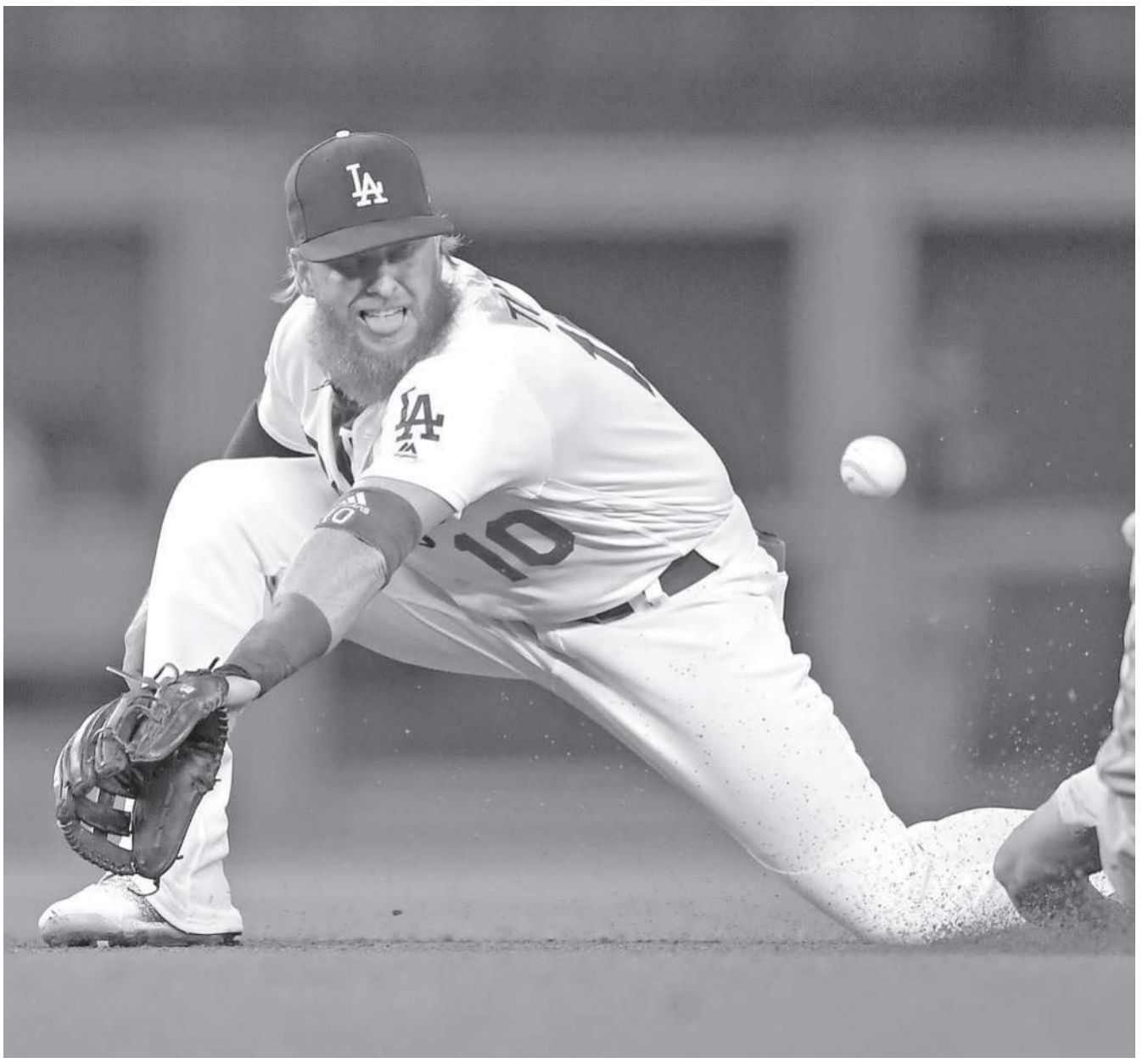
"We had our mojo back, but this series clarified that," Cody Bellinger said.

Brad Boxberger (2-5) started the ninth and put the potential tying and go-ahead runs on with consecutive walks to pinch-hitter Alex Verdugo and Max Muncy. The runners advanced on Enrique Hernandez's sacrifice bunt and set up Kemp, who pinch-hit in the seventh and stayed in the game.

"That's why we call him Hollywood," Bellinger said. "He likes the big moments."

Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said he considered walking Kemp, but wanted to avoid pitching to Justin Turner and Manny Machado.

"I brought in Archie because I thought it would be a good spot (after Saturday's game)," Lovullo said. "He's been doing it for us all season, but Kemp has our number."



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner catches a throw to tag out Arizona Diamondbacks' Paul Goldschmidt during the fifth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Rockies 7, Padres 3

In San Diego, Consecutive losses to the last-place Padres had some people wondering what was going on with the Colorado Rockies.

Just as quickly, consecutive wins have the Rockies feeling pretty good about themselves.

"We feel as though we're a contending team," manager Bud Black said after the Rockies beat the last-place Padres to salvage a split of a four-game series. "We feel as though we can play with anybody in the National League. We'll see how these next few weeks go. This is good stuff. This is where we want to be. We know we're in a dogfight with the Diamondbacks and Dodgers. We've just got to keep doing it."

Colorado, which lost to Arizona in the NL wild-card game last year, won for the third time in seven games.

Braves 5, Pirates 1

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuna Jr. hit his seventh leadoff homer of the season and scored the tiebreaking run in a four-run eighth inning to help the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The 20-year-old Acuna singled off Steven Brault to begin the eighth, advanced on a bunt and scored from second on a headfirst slide after second baseman Kevin Newman errantly let Freddie Freeman's hard grounder bounce between his legs and roll into shallow right field.

Royals 9, Orioles 1

In Kansas City, Meibrys Viloria trotted into the dugout after the sixth inning, and Royals manager Ned Yost told his recently recalled rookie catcher to help get pitcher Jorge Lopez through one more inning.

So when Viloria headed to the bench after the seventh, that task successfully complete, he plopped down and began to relax. Puzzled, Yost looked at him and asked, "What are you doing?"

"You said," Viloria replied, "get him through one more inning."

Tigers 11, Yankees 7

In New York, being a Rule 5 draft pick usually means putting in far more time before a game than during it. On Sunday, the hard work paid off for rookie Victor Reyes and the Detroit Tigers.

Reyes hit his first major league homer, doubled twice and singled in leading the Tigers over the New York Yankees.

"He works his tail off," Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire said.

Blue Jays 6, Marlins 1

In Miami, Sean Reid-Foley looked much different during his third start in the majors than he did in the first two.

The 23-year-old rookie struck out 10 over seven innings and earned his first big league win, pitching the Toronto Blue Jays over the Miami Marlins.

"He was fantastic," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "He was popping the ball. That's the best we've seen it. I think those first two starts and then he went back down, I think he had a lot of confidence coming into today."

Brewers 9, Nationals 4

In Washington, the Milwaukee Brewers are heading home with a pair of series victory and Christian Yelich swinging one of the hottest bats in the majors.

Yelich hit his first career grand slam, Keon Broxton added a three-run homer, and Milwaukee earned a victory over the Washington Nationals.

He hit .444 (12 for 27) with four homers and 14 RBIs during the Brewers' 4-2 road trip to Cincinnati and Washington. Milwaukee is in second place in the NL Central, five games behind Chicago, but it moved a half-game ahead of St. Louis for the first wild card spot.

Cubs 8, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, one of the hottest pitchers in baseball was at his best early on, yet the Cubs' high-powered hitters didn't get discouraged.

Javier Baez hit one of three solo home runs off Cy Young contender Aaron Nola to reach 30 home runs and 100 RBIs, and Jon Lester pitched six shutout innings to continue his mastery of the Phillies in NL Central-leading Chicago's victory over Philadelphia.

White Sox 8, Red Sox 0

In Chicago, Boston's rotation woes continued. And the rebuilding Chicago White Sox took full advantage.

James Shields threw six scoreless innings, Tim Anderson and Daniel Palka homered and the White Sox beat the major league-leading Red Sox to split their four-game series.

Anderson had three hits—including two doubles—for the White Sox, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

Reds 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Eugenio Suarez reached the 100-RBI milestone for the first time in style.

Suarez's two-run homer off of Bud Norris in the 10th inning lifted the Cincinnati Reds to a win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday. The blast gave Suarez RBIs 99 and 100 this season. His previous RBI high was 82 in 2017.

"For me to hit that homer and my 100th RBI, that's special," Suarez said. "That's what I always dreamed of and today I can tell my dreams come true."

Rangers 18, Twins 4

In Arlington, Yohander Mendez and Nomar Mazara have gone through down periods this season. Everything came together for them.

Mendez earned his first major league win and Mazara hit two of the Texas Rangers' six homers in an rout of the Minnesota Twins.

Mendez (1-1) allowed three hits and one walk while striking out two in six scoreless innings. He was making his second major league start in a season when he was a combined 2-10 with the Rangers' top three farm teams.

Athletics 8, Mariners 2

In Oakland, Stephen Piscotty homered twice and drove in five runs as the Oakland Athletics widened their lead over Seattle for the second AL wild-card spot, beating the Mariners.

The A's moved 5 1/2 games ahead of Seattle for the final AL wild-card slot.

Edwin Jackson (5-3) allowed one run on three hits in six innings. He improved to 5-0 with a 1.30 ERA in five career starts against the Mariners.

Mets 4, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Noah Syndergaard pitched a two-hitter for his first career complete game, striking out 11 as the New York Mets beat the San Francisco Giants.

Syndergaard (10-3) made his 81st start in the majors and topped the Giants for the second time in 12 days. He matched his season high for strikeouts, walked one and retired 20 of the final 22 batters.

Syndergaard allowed only two runners past first base and set the side down in order five times.

Rays 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, rookie Brandon Lowe homered and drove in three runs, and the Tampa Bay Rays hung on in the ninth inning to defeat the Cleveland Indians on Sunday, taking two of three from the AL Central leaders.

Ryan Yarbrough, another rookie, allowed one run in five-plus innings of relief for opener Diego Castillo, who was removed after Yandy Diaz's leadoff single in the second.

Yarbrough (13-5), who earned his major league-leading 11th relief win, was pulled after Jose Ramirez's RBI single in the seventh.

Broncos cut ties with 2016 first-round pick QB Lynch

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—John Elway cut ties with his biggest draft bust Sunday when he waived quarterback Paxton Lynch less than 24 hours after including him on the Denver Broncos' 53-man roster.

In another move, the Broncos placed safety Su'a Cravens on IR with an injured left knee and re-signed Isaiah McKenzie, the speedy returner/receiver who was among the team's cuts a day earlier.

Lynch was jettisoned after the Broncos were awarded fellow third-year quarterback Kevin Hogan off waivers from Washington.

Elway said he and coach Vance Joseph "met with Paxton this morning and informed him that it's best for everyone to make this move. We appreciate all of Paxton's hard work as a Bronco, and we wish him well in the future."

Elway once viewed the athletic but raw Lynch as a future franchise quarterback, moving up in the 2016 NFL draft to select the University of Memphis star with the 26th overall pick in the first round.

That move came in the shadows of Denver's Super Bowl 50 win and shortly after Peyton Manning's retirement and Brock Osweiler's departure.

Denver Broncos quarterback Paxton Lynch (12) is sacked by Chicago Bears defensive end Roy Robertson-Harris (95) and defensive tackle John Jenkins (92) during the second half of a preseason NFL football game, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018, in Denver. AP

Elway acknowledged at the time that Lynch was a project who needed some seasoning but he expressed hope that Lynch might be a quick study.

He wasn't.

Twice, seventh-rounder Trevor Siemian handily beat out Lynch in protracted competitions for the starting QB job.

When Case Keenum was signed in March, Elway sent Siemian to the Minnesota Vikings, clearing the way for Lynch to serve as the No. 2 quarterback. All he had to do was fend off Chad Kelly, another seventh-rounder.

He couldn't .

Kelly had a terrific offseason while Lynch regressed this summer before completing 14 of 15 passes against third-stringers in the Broncos' fourth preseason game last week at Arizona.

Lynch made the team as the third quarterback, but Elway indicated his survival on cutdown day was more a function of Kelly's inexperience after spending his rookie season on IR last year.

"With Chad not having a lot of experience and not having played in a regular season game before, we thought that we had to go with three quarterbacks," Elway said, "and Paxton was our third."

MCDONALD'S BACKS UP MTEC CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., center, and employee Shanie Camacho, third left, present a $1,000 check donation to MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, fifth left, for the 3rd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament. Also in the photo are, from left, McDonald's employee Alona Dela Cruz, tournament director James Nelson, Jessy Helgen, and Marianas Visitors Authority's Martin Duenas.

CAROL

From Page 28

tion/Oceania Tennis Federation facility and getting ready for two more world ranking tournaments in South Korea.

The CNMI bet will first play in the 2018 Lee Duk Hee Cup Chuncheon International Junior Tennis Championships that will run from Oct. 30 to Nov. 4 at the Chuncheon Songam Sports Town Tennis Courts in Gangwon Province. It is a Grade 2 event, which awards as much as 160 ranking points in the singles competition and 120 in the doubles.

From Chuncheon, Lee will head to Jeju to participate in the 2018 Seogwipo Asia/Oceania Closed Junior Championships. The competition at the Seogwipo Tennis Court from No. 5 to 11 is a much-higher ranked event—B1. The singles champion in this tournament will get 280 points, while the doubles winners will take home 210. A B1 event is the third-highest ranked competition under the Juniors ITF Circuit behind the Grand Slam/Youth Olympics and Grade A.

It will be Lee's second appearance in the 2018 Seogwipo Asia/Oceania Closed. Last year, she made it the Round of 16 of the 64-player field in the singles events after winning her first two matches. She defeated South Korea's Ji Youn Lee, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, and also prevailed against China's Jiaqi Wang, 6-2, 6-3, before losing to South Korea's Cherry Kim, 4-6, 5-7. In the doubles, Lee partnered with Wong and they bowed to Kim and Heejin Han in the first round, 3-6, 5-7.

SOCCER

From Page 28

squads, as they will field 10 each. Kanoa has two teams in the U9 and U13A divisions and one each in the U6, U13B, U11, boys U15, girls U16, and boys U18. MP United has two teams each in the co-ed U9 and U11 and one apiece in the remaining divisions.

TanHoldings FC also has two squads in the U11, two more in the U13A, and one apiece in the other age groups, while Matansa will be represented by one team in each division. Shirley's FC, Paire FC, Southern United FC, newcomer Fiesta Soccer Club, and Tinian Premier FC will have six, five, four, three, and two teams, respectively.

CNMI

From Page 28

a team, but gradually Guam took advantage and also we lacked game experience and these had effects to the game results," Mita said.

"But I'm very proud of the boys for giving their best till the end and also for trying to do our own football. We keep our heads up and now we focus on the next match against host Mongolia. I know they are the best team in this tournament, but we will improve game by game and do our football in the next match," he added.

Team manager Norman Del Rosario explained what Mita considered as the CNMI's own brand of soccer.

"The CNMI has its own style of football now, aggressive, yet patient and very resilient no matter what the score line is, we still give our best to get a goal. Coach Mita did a great job in preparing the team with this kind of high-level tournament. They followed the game plan and executed some plays that created chances," Del Rosario said.

One of those scoring opportunities was a breakaway from John Michael Rojas, who was able to knock in a goal, but the shot was nullified, as the referee had already called an offside.

Despite the missed chances and the loss, team captain Jonathan Takano said they are sticking to the positives.

"We are a young team, we need to make more experience. If we look at the result, we lost, 4-0, but there also a lot of positives, our boys learned a lot from this match," Takano said.

Del Rosario seconded.

"This team always have that positive vibes, they share some laughs, discuss the thing they can do, and encourage each other," the team official said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Men's National Team's starting unit pose for a photo before playing against Guam in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 last Sunday at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Meanwhile, the Blue Ayuyus game versus Mongolia will be played today at 5pm (7pm Saipan time), while the CNMI women's team dueled the host in the second match last night and results of their showdown were unavailable as off press time.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	94	44	.681	—
New York	86	51	.628	7½
Tampa Bay	73	63	.537	20
Toronto	62	74	.456	31
Baltimore	40	97	.292	53½

Central Division

Cleveland	77	59	.566	—
Minnesota	63	73	.463	14
Chicago	55	82	.401	22½
Detroit	55	82	.401	22½
Kansas City	45	91	.331	32

West Division

Houston	84	53	.613	—
Oakland	82	56	.594	2½
Seattle	76	61	.555	8
Los Angeles	66	71	.482	18
Texas	60	77	.438	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	76	60	.559	—
Philadelphia	72	64	.529	4
Washington	68	69	.496	8½
New York	61	75	.449	15
Miami	54	83	.394	22½

Central Division

Chicago	81	55	.596	—
Milwaukee	77	61	.558	5
St. Louis	76	61	.555	5½
Pittsburgh	66	71	.482	15½
Cincinnati	59	78	.431	22½

West Division

Los Angeles	75	62	.547	—
Colorado	74	62	.544	½
Arizona	74	63	.540	1
San Francisco	68	70	.493	7½
San Diego	54	85	.388	22

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Championship Flight winner Edward Lee, right, answers the question of event host Glenn Policare during the awards ceremony for the 3rd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vickie Benavente thanks golfers, sponsors, and volunteers of the weekend tournament.

From left, Ladies Flight Top 3 finishers, Hyun Son, Yuko Togawa, and Shirley Jones pose for a photo after the awards ceremony.

Chris Leon Guerrero, right, is all smiles after receiving $300 from organizers for making a hole-in-one shot on the par-3 No. 6 hole of the east course. Also in the photo are Kanoa Resort's Glenn Policare and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring.

From left, B Flight third placer Calvin Yamagishi, runner-up Albert Pajarillaga, and champion Diego Benavente pose with their prizes.

Super Senior Flight winner Nick Sablan, center, and runner-up Tony Satur, right, acknowledge third placer and 81-year-old Frank Castro.

A Flight champion Ned Norita, left, is joined in the photo by runner-up Dung Tenorio, center, and third finisher Joseph Muña.

From left, C Flight champion Burt Suda, runner-up Ray Santos, and third placer Nick Nishikawa are all smiles after getting their prizes.

Serena, Nadal march into quarterfinals

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers defeat Diamondbacks, take lead

PAGE 25

CNMI stands proud, stays upbeat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team players and officials are keeping their heads up high and remain positive despite losing their opening game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 last Sunday at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Guam shut down the Blue Ayuyus, 4-0, but not after being forced to work double time on defense, as the CNMI made multiple attempts to score. The Commonwealth players' effort and persistence did not go unnoticed as Guam's coach and a long-time national player praised the Blue Ayuyus.

"I want to begin by praising NMI, it was a good match because they have improved a lot lately," Guam coach Karl Dodd said during the post-match press conference.

"Both teams worked hard and play well. Northern Mariana Islands have a young squad, they are trying to bring in new players, as we do. We are both limited in terms of resources, but it was a good game," Matao's Jason Cunliffe said in the same press conference.

As for CNMI coach Michiteru Mita, he said the Blue Ayuyus showed much improved chemistry as proven in the scoring opportunities they created and the way they played defense in the early minutes of the first and second half of their match against Guam. However, Mita admitted that the lack of game experience and playing under a rainy and cold weather took its toll on his team.

"Guam has some experienced players and the team was well organized. In this situation, at the beginning, we played better and controlled our opponents. We played as

See CNMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Joel Fruit, center, collides with Guam's Marcus Philip Lopez as they battle for the ball during the opening game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 last Sunday at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Carol moves up in jr. world rankings, anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee continues to rise in the Juniors ITF world rankings, moving a few notches up to the ladder in the final week of August.

From No. 166 after making it to the finals of the singles event in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 in Fiji, the CNMI junior player is now ranked at No. 163—her highest so far since joining the Juniors ITF Circuit in 2015. In her four years of competing in world ranking tournaments, Lee has a 89-35 record in singles and 53-35 in doubles.

This season, he has posted 26-6 and 12-7 marks in the singles and doubles, respectively, highlighting the 2018 with three straight singles titles and four consecutive finals appearances. She won in the Northern Marianas Juniors Championships on Saipan in May and the South Pacific Open Junior Championships and Oceania Open Junior Championships, which were both held in Fiji in June and July.

Right now, Lee is back to Fiji from Australia where she competed in the Australian Winter International in Sydney. She is training at the International Tennis Federa-

See CAROL on Page 26

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Carol Lee is currently ranked No. 163 in the world and is preparing for two more Juniors ITF Circuit tournaments.

Soccer referee course set for fall season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Referee Committee has scheduled a basic referee course this Sept. 6 and 7 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The course will run from 6pm to 9pm on each day and aims at preparing officials for the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League that will kick off this weekend. The course will only involve interactive classroom sessions.

"The course is open to anyone interested to begin a referee career or wants to refresh their knowledge on officiating games. With the completion of the NMI Soccer Training Center, we are hoping to raise the quality and level of soccer on our island in all aspects, whether it'd be our leagues, coaches, players, referees, and more," NMIFA Referee Committee vice chair Russelle Zapanta said.

Zapanta will conduct the course, as he will give participants an overview of the laws of the game and guide them on their way to joining the CNMI's pool of referees.

Besides educating and developing referees, the NMIFA has also launched the Club Development Support Project, which encourages each club to provide coaches to the different teams' training sessions on weekdays. Coaches will work on the various clubs' co-ed U11 and U13 squads. There will be 15 training sessions and they will start on Sept. 10 and run until late October.

Meanwhile, 57 teams will see action in the competitive and non-competitive divisions of the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

Kanoa Football Club and MP United have the most

See SOCCER on Page 26

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Youth players fight for possession during the 2018 NMIFA Youth Spring League at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. The fall season is approaching and Nothern Mariana Islands Football Association will hold a basic referee course to get officials ready for the upcoming games.